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APPENDIX TO THE ANNUAL REPORT

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OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

REPORTS OF TENANT FARMERS' DELEGATES

ON THE

DOMINION OF CANADA

AS A

FIELD FOR SETTLEMENT.



OTTAWA:

PRINTED BY MACLEAN, ROGER & CO., WELLINGTON STREET.

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The following was the Introduction to the Reports of the Tenant Farmers' Delegates, as published in England:—

The Hon. J. H. Pope, the Minister of Agriculture of the Government of Canada, caused a number of delegates representing Tenant Farmers in the United Kingdom to be invited to visit the Dominion in the autumn of 1879, for the purpose of examining its resources, and reporting on its suitability as a field for settlement.

In accordance with such invitation, the following delegates visited Canada:—

Mr. Biggar, The Grange, Dalbeattie, Kirkcudbrightshire.

Mr. Cowan, Mains of Park, Glenluce, Wigtownshire.

Mr. Gordon, Comlongon Mains, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

Mr. Elliot, Hollybush, Galashiels.

Mr. Logan, Legerwood, Earlston, Berwickshire.

Mr. Snow, Pirntaton, Fountain Hall, Midlothian.

Mr. Hutchinson, Brougham Castle, Penrith, Cumberland.

Mr. Peat, Lees House, Silloth, Cumberland.

Mr. Irving, Bowness-on-Solway, Carlisle.

Mr. Johnstone, Low Burnthwaite, near Carlisle.

Mr. Wilken, Waterside of Forbes, Aberdeenshire.

Mr. Bruce, Aberdeenshire.

Mr. Wallace, Nithsdale.

Mr. Welsh, Eskdale.

These gentlemen were, in the first place, clearly informed it was of all things desired that their own judgment should be freely exercised and entirely unfettered; and that it was simply desired to obtain from them the results of their own personal observations, as well with respect to drawbacks as advantages, to shade as well as brightness. But it may be added that even this injunction was unnecessary for men of the character of those who were sent to Canada, and their constituents do not require to be informed of it.

The motive for thus inviting delegates and affording them facilities to see every part and province of the Dominion, in so far as practicable within the limit of time at their disposal, was to obtain testimony as respects the objects stated, which should not be open to the kind of question that might attach to any statements whatever coming from Canada, no matter on what authority they might be made.

The reports now published have been made by the delegates to their respective constituents, and have been handed to Mr. John Lowe, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of the Government of Canada, who has visited this country for the purpose of receiving and publishing them. This has only been done after careful revision by the delegate responsible for each.

The reports of two gentlemen who did not visit the Dominion as delegates, namely, Mr. John Maxwell, of Carlisle, and Mr. Chambré, from the County of Tyrone, in Ireland, but who accompanied parties of the delegates as simple observers, are appended to this publication.

It is not thought necessary to make in this place any attempt to summarize the reports of the delegates, as they will be read with very great and special interest by many in the United Kingdom. It may, however, be generally stated that those who went to Manitoba and contiguous parts of the adjoining territory, found the land to be of extraordinary richness, and specially adapted to the growth of wheat; while in the older provinces of the Dominion they found the conditions of mixed farming very much the same as in the United Kingdom. One of the delegates, Mr. Elliot, stated that, in the parts of the Dominion he visited, he did not find that cattle required to be housed longer than in Scotland.

Several of the delegates refer to the question why farms may be bought in the older provinces, and why the land is so cheap? In so far as respects price, in the last-named portion of the Dominion, it is to be observed that the value of occupied land in the older parts of a new country like Canada must necessarily, to a great extent, be governed—first, by the cost of clearing new forest land in the wooded parts; and second, by the facility with which prairie land can be obtained free, to the extent of 160 acres, on the simple condition of continuous settlement for three years. It must be plain to all men that the fact of vast areas being open to settlement on such conditions will largely affect prices of occupied land a few hundred miles distant, to which there is connection both by water and rail.

A fact to be remarked is that the farmer who migrates from the British Islands to any part of Canada does not change his flag; nor does he, except to a very slight degree, change his mode of life or his companionship. He goes among his own people, to conditions of life and society the same as those he leaves behind. He is not obliged to swear—before he can exercise the rights of citizenship, or in some States hold land—that he “renounces for ever all allegiance and fidelity” to his Sovereign and the land of his birth.

The farmer who migrates from these islands, moreover, has the satisfaction of feeling that he is assisting to build up a great British Empire, having for its seat the northern half of the Continent of North America, occupying a space as large as the whole of Europe, and containing agricultural, mineral, and commercial resources to be developed in the immediate future of almost illimitable extent; and, as the reports of the delegates will show, certainly beyond popular conception in this country.

The public lands of Manitoba, Keewatin and the North-West Territory are in the hands of the Dominion Government; and those of the older provinces, in the hands of the Provincial Governments. The regulations, as respects the Dominion lands, stating the conditions on which homesteads are given to settlers, and the prices at which other lands are sold, including the railway lands, are appended to this publication. Any further particulars on any point may be obtained by correspondence with a Government agent.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT EMIGRATION OFFICE,
15 WATER STREET, LIVERPOOL, 5th January, 1880.

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REPORTS

OF

TENANT FARMERS' DELEGATES.

REPORT OF MR. JAMES BIGGAR, DELEGATE FROM THE STEWARTRY OF KIRKCUDBRIGHT.

A meeting of the farmers of the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright was held in the Town Hall, Castle Douglas, on the 22nd December, 1879, to hear the report of Mr. James Biggar, Grange Farm, the delegate sent to Canada by the Stewartry to report on that country as a field for the settlement of agriculturists. The hall was crowded in every part, a large number being unable to find even standing room. Among those on or near the platform were—Mr. Jas. Biggar, Grange Farm; Mr. Maxwell of Munches; Mr. Murray Stewart of Cally; Col. Maitland of Glenloch; Capt. Hume of Auchendolly; Mr. W. J. Maxwell, jr., of Munches; Mr. Thomas Biggar of Chapelton; Mr. M'Queen of Crofts; Mr. Lusk, Howell; Mr. A. J. Milroy, factor for the Earl of Selkirk; Mr. Robt. Stewart of Culgruff; Mr. Moffat of Ken Ervie; Mr. Skirving of Croys; Mr. Hutchison of Balmaghie; Capt. Clark of Dunmuir; Mr. Fergusson of Kilquhanity; Mr. George Cowan, Mains of Park (the delegate from Wigtownshire); Mr. Grahame; Mr. Irving, Blackerrie; Mr. Gibbons, late of Burnfoot, Carlisle; Rev. Mr. Stark of Kirkpatrick-Durham; Rev. Mr. Wark of Auchencairn, &c., &c.

On the motion of Mr. M'Queen, Mr. Skirving of Croys was called to the chair.

The Chairman mentioned the circumstances under which Mr. Jas. Biggar had been sent out to Canada as the delegate from the farmers of the Stewartry, and said he did not think they could have selected a more qualified man. (Applause.) He was a man with his eyes all about him, and he had returned safe and sound to tell them what he saw in Canada, and whether it would be worth their while to go out and settle there.

Mr. Biggar, who was warmly received, then proceeded to deliver his report as follows:—

I think it may be well to explain the footing on which the delegates from other districts and myself recently visited Canada. You are no doubt aware that of late agents of the various Land and Railway Companies in the United States have been making extraordinary efforts to induce settlers to purchase and take up the large extent of unoccupied lands which they possess. Canada has lately discovered that she possesses in her North-West an immense extent of fertile country fit for settlement, and consequently invites a share of emigration, more especially from this country—partly to settle these new lands and partly to take the places of those farmers in Ontario and other older settled Provinces who are moving to the North-West. So many people have been deceived by overdrawn and highly-coloured pictures of the Western States, published by land companies, railway companies, speculators, and others, that much suspicion and distrust of these agents generally has arisen. The Canadian Government therefore decided on asking the farmers of this country to send delegates from amongst themselves, whose reports would be received at home with more confidence than the statements, however true, of their agents, who were strangers. The idea, I believe, originated with the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, a gentleman of whom I cannot speak too highly, and has been generally approved of both here and in America. The result was, as you know, my appointment here some three months ago, and I have now to give you my report. We landed at Quebec on Sunday, 21st September, and proceeded to Montreal. The banks of the St. Lawrence, below Quebec, and for a considerable distance towards Montreal, are largely settled by French Canadians whose houses look neat and comfortable, but whose holdings are much subdivided, and there is nothing in this district which

makes it a desirable one for Scotch settlers. Some of the land is marshy, and some stony, and a good deal still uncleared. On our way to Montreal we saw a number of people gathered together to witness what proved to be a trotting match, a sport of which French Canadians are very fond. Montreal is the finest city in Canada, and the farmers in the neighborhood grow considerable quantities of potatoes for that market, which realize about £10 per acre. They also find a good market for hay, butter and other produce. From Montreal to Ottawa we went by steamer on the Ottawa river, the scenery of which is very fine. The farms along this river vary from 100 to 150 acres, two-thirds cleared, and depend for their markets very much on the lumber trade, the greatest industry in this district. On the steamer we met a good many farmers who had come from Scotland 25 to 30 years ago, poor men, but who now owned farms of 80 to 150 acres. They spoke of their success with pride and satisfaction, and were evidently comfortable and independent. We visited for several days the Dominion Show at Ottawa, which, after the custom of the Highland Society, visits the principal cities in rotation. Considering that Ottawa is not situated in a good agricultural district, and that most of the stock had been brought several hundred miles from Ontario, the show was a great success. Some of the arrangements appeared to me capable of improvement. Entries are received up till date of show, and there is therefore no time to prepare proper catalogues. The stock are not arranged in classes according to age and sex as we do, and there is not only some confusion in judging, but a difficulty in finding out the animals and comparing their merits. The cattle classes were exceedingly good, especially shorthorns, the animals from the Bow Park herd being fine and carrying off a large share of prizes. Ayrshires were also good, especially the cows and bulls; the latter were, we think, equal to any we have seen. Devons ranked next; and Herefords were good, but not numerous.

There were fully 40 entries of Galloway cattle, including a fair aged bull and three good cows. There was nothing of merit in the younger classes, hard plain heads, narrow shoulders, and high hocks, being the general defects. Sheep were a fair show, and there was a large and very excellent show of pigs.

Draught horses were not a large or important class, few showing any Clydesdale character, but were more after the type of van horses in England. The Canadian general purpose horse is required to combine activity and pace with draught, and is similar to the general run of Irish horses. The Canadians go in strongly for fast harness horses, and the exhibition of 12 or 15 in the ring, yoked to light carriages, was quite a feature of the show. These roadsters are remarkably free, clever movers, and are very hardy, but they lack the style and substance of English horses, and are rather leggy and weak in their loins.

The machinery and implement department contained many articles of novelty and interest, and displayed throughout those qualities of ingenuity, lightness of material and good construction which characterize American machinery. A large variety of harvesting and threshing machines was exhibited, the chief novelty being a machine to lift and bind grain laid off either in swathe or sheaf from a side delivery reaper, but not yet quite perfected. The smaller articles, such as forks, scythes, etc., were exquisitely finished, and far ahead of English made tools.

There was a large show of grain; wheat and peas were very fine, barley and oats fair; mangolds and potatoes were good, but turnips rather coarse.

The show of fruit was exceedingly fine.

The exhibition also included specimens of fur, minerals, native wines and other productions of the country.

A very interesting collection of Manitoba products was shown in a separate building, and was much admired. Sections of the soil three to four feet deep were shown, and specimens of its productions, including grain, hay, vegetables and turnips, which were very good.

We made a careful inspection of the dairy department, along with Mr. Graham, President of the Ontario Dairymen's Association. There was an excellent show of cheese, many of the lots being nearly equal to finest Scotch cheddars. The butter was also fine. Mr. Graham is connected with 57 cheese factories in the neighbour-

hood of Belleville, all of which are conducted on the joint-stock system. They have gone into the improvement of their cheese for our market with much enterprise and success. They have not only secured the services of the best American makers as instructors at a cost of £200 to £250 for the season, but Mr. Graham has paid several visits to England in order thoroughly to understand the English taste, and prepare their goods to fit our market. The farmers own these factories, and after paying all expenses, divide the proceeds according to the proportion of milk supplied by each. The average yield of cheese per cow is about 300 lbs. The cost of manufacturing is about $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per lb., and of collecting the milk about 5s. per cow for the season. Mr. Graham considers 5d. per lb. the lowest price at which it pays them to make fine cheese, and as prices have been of late far under that figure, many factories have stopped making.

There are very large deposits of phosphate of lime in this district, a good deal of which has been exported to this country. We drove into the country and visited some of the mines where it is found. We also visited a chemical work where it is manufactured, and where they succeeded in overcoming the difficulties of dissolving it which have made it unpopular in this country. The deposits of this phosphate are very large, and are likely not only to be an important source of wealth to the country for export, but also of great use to the farmers when they have learnt their value.

On our way from Ottawa to Toronto, we called at Brockville and met Mr. Stagg, butcher, who owns 300 acres of land close to the town, and goes in for cattle-feeding on a larger scale than almost any one we met in Canada. He feeds 100 head annually, buying three-year-old steers in spring at about £6 per head. He gives the cattle when on grass about 100 lbs. each of meal mixed with salt, and considers that £3 a head pays him for grazing. He ties up the cattle at 1st November and feeds till May; buys Indian corn, and chops and steams all the food. He allows daily about 8 lbs. meal per head, and increases it to 15 lbs. at the finish. We saw about 60 cattle in a field of good clover, about a fourth of which were bulls. The bulls cost £1 each in spring, and some bullocks bought recently £9. The bullocks were strong and in good condition, but lacked quality. I valued them at £18 a head in our market. If they had been better bred, they would have been worth 30s. more. Mr. Stagg could have bought better bred cattle in Ontario, but prices are so much higher there that he preferred buying in his own district. He expected to make his cattle worth £16 to £17 in May, and estimated cost of sending to England at £7 10s. each. Since the exportation of fat cattle to England began prices had advanced—stirks costing 50s. to £3; two-year-olds, £4 to £6; and three-year-olds, £6 to £7. A considerable number of store cattle have been sent to the States from this district, but as this trade is now shut out they will be fed off at home. We saw a good class of driving horses in and around Brockville, which seemed suitable for the English market, and were worth there £15 to £30 each. We left Toronto for Manitoba on the 30th September, taking steamer at Sarnia for Duluth—a sail of five days on Lake Huron and Lake Superior which are part of that magnificent chain of lakes which stretch nearly to the centre of the continent and connect it with the Atlantic seaboard. Some of our party stayed two days at Thunder Bay along with the Hon. Mr. Aikins, the Secretary of State, and the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of Customs, to inspect the section of the Canada Pacific Railway which terminates here, and which is expected to be opened ere long as far as Winnipeg, in Manitoba. As I was anxious to visit the famous Dalrymple Farms, as well as the Maple Farm adjoining it, in which we have an interest, I pushed on to Duluth—the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railway, on Lake Superior—where much of the western wheat of Dakota and Minnesota is shipped. There are already two large elevators here, in which wheat is received, cleaned, stored, and re-shipped at a charge of $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bushel. As most of the grain is hastily threshed off in the field, it comes to hand rather rough, and there is considerable inleak in cleaning. In our voyage over these lakes we were more than once delayed by fogs, and once run aground, but got off again without much difficulty. From Duluth westwards the railway for some miles follows the valley of the St. Louis

River, a finely-wooded and rugged glen almost like the pass of Killyerankie. The rapids and falls of the river, lit up first by the setting sun and then by the moon, was one of the finest scenes we saw in America. A hot wind prevailed during the night, which made the cars very close and uncomfortable. At daylight in the morning we were passing through a rather poor, rolling prairie, covered with low scrub and full of marshy places. It gradually improved, and was under cultivation in a rude way till we reached Glyndon, where we entered the famous valley of the Red River, containing many hundreds of square miles of the finest land in the world. We crossed the Red River at Fargo, a rising place, and 12 miles farther alighted at Mapleton Station, situated on the Maple Farm and surrounded by boundless prairie as far as the eye could reach. We found our visit to these farms very useful, as we there got details of the cost of cultivating wheat on a large scale, which we could not have got on as good authority in Manitoba, but which are applicable to that province. We had about 1,000 acres in crop last year, part of it raised on shares and part by our own cultivation. Farming on shares we pay the tenant cost of first breaking—2½ to 3 dollars per acre—(dollar, equal 4s. 2d.; and cents, equal ½d., or 100 cents, dollar); find seed, one and a half bushels per acre, lend steam thrasher, and pay taxes—receiving one-half of the produce; the rent paid by a 20 bushels crop being about 4 dollars per acre. We also calculated cost of producing an acre of wheat and value of produce as follows, the farm being close to railway station:—

Produce, say 20 bushels at 70 cents.....	\$ 14 00
Ploughing, sowing, harvesting, &c.....	\$ 6 50
Seed.....	1 50
Rent charge, 8 per cent.....	1 00
Interest on plant.....	1 00
	<hr/>
	10 00
Profit.....	<hr/>
	\$ 4 00

Our crops for 3 years have averaged fully 20 bushels. We also made up a statement of capital necessary to purchase and cultivate a section of land in this neighbourhood, as follows:—

640 acres at \$9.....	\$ 5,760 00
Breaking 500 acres, say \$2½.....	1,250 00
House and buildings.....	1,500 00
13 horses.....	1,950 00
Harness.....	160 00
5 waggons.....	375 00
4 sulky ploughs.....	320 00
4 pairs harrows.....	60 00
3 seeders.....	195 00
2 rollers (?).....	80 00
4 self-binding reapers.....	1,200 00
1 hay mower.....	90 00
1 hay rake.....	40 00
Sundries.....	1,000 00
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Total.....	\$13,980 00

Or £2,796

The above does not include thrashing machine, which may be hired. The first cost of land may seem high at nine dollars, as plenty of land can be bought for four or five, or even less, but not so near a railway, and as we have sold some at 10½ dollars, we have taken above sum in our calculations. The above calculation is on a basis of 450 acres in wheat annually, 50 acres in oats for horses, and 140 acres in grass and hay; for though at present plenty of hay may be cut on the prairie, the

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country is being so rapidly settled, that by and by the settler would be confined to his own land. Of course a settler could begin on a section of land with much less capital by restricting his operations at first, but, in that case, part of the land would be idle. 70 cents may be considered rather a low price for wheat, as we have sold this year at 75 cents to 77 cents; and some who waited longer got 90 cents to 100 cents for No. 1 wheat, but we prefer taking a minimum figure as a basis. The soil here consists of a rich, black vegetable mould, 12 to 14 inches deep, on a friable clay subsoil, rather of a marly character. Next day we drove over the Dalrymple farms which consists of 70,000 acres in different places. On this division they had about 12,000 acres in crop last year, yielding on an average about 19 bushels per acre. We first saw on the horizon a dark line which, as we approached, proved to be a gang of thirteen double ploughs, each drawn by four horses, and turning 2 furrows, 15 inches each in width, and 3 to 4 inches deep, going after each other on a furrow a mile long. On another section, seven double and six single ploughs were at work, and on another, eleven double ploughs drawn by four mules each. The horses were similar to second-class 'bus horses and showed signs of work; but the mules were in fine condition, and seemed to stand the work much better than horses. The sight was one not easy to be forgotten. In surveying the vast, unbroken prairie there was a sense of loneliness and a doubt of its value as an agricultural subject, but the rich, black soil being turned up, the strong, clean stubble of the former crop, and the fact of its suitability for cropping being thus practically demonstrated, dispelled the idea of wildness, and brought back a feeling of admiration for the enterprise and system of that style of farming. There are four or five steadings on the farm, with excellent accommodation for men and horses. The implements were also put past in capital order. In one shed we saw fourteen self-binders and four or five steam thrashers. In another, nineteen seed drills and a pile of harrows; in others, spare parts for reapers, ploughs, &c., and a row of waggons outside. Each of these double ploughs travels from 18 to 20 miles a day, and turns over about 5 acres daily. The crop is cut down by self-binding reapers, cutting down 12 acres a day, and attended by a driver and two stokers. It is thrashed out in the field, the straw burned, and the wheat taken straight to the cars on a special siding. Each machine thrashes about 1,000 bushels daily. Wages for ploughmen are 18 to 20 dollars a month and board. We were told that analysis of the subsoil showed that it contained all the elements necessary for growing wheat should the surface soil become exhausted, but the latter is expected to last many years. In returning to the station we saw the train approach quite half-an-hour before it reached us, as the track is perfectly straight for 50 miles W. On our way back to Glyndon we saw extensive prairie fires raging to the northwards, but they were fortunately extinguished by heavy rains during the night. We met the rest of the party at the station next morning, and proceeded by rail to Winnipeg, which we reached in 18 hours.

At Mapleton Station a special train with 300 Montana cattle passed *en route* for Chicago. They were the tops of a lot of 900, which had walked several hundred miles from Montana to Bismark, and were large, heavy cattle, in good condition. We afterwards heard they weighed about 1,600 lbs., live weight, and that some of them were sent to New York.

From Glyndon the railway traverses the great wheat State of Minnesota, and enters Canadian territory at Emerson. Near to Glyndon the prairie is rather low and marshy, but we gradually emerged on the dry prairie, which had been swept by fire, and was black and bare. In places we saw patches of low willow, but no timber, except along the banks of the rivers. We saw a good many homesteads along the line of railway, some being on a very rude and small scale, and a few evidently belonging to men of some capital. We were much struck with the gross neglect of expensive implements. Self-binding reaping machines, costing £60 each, and other implements were lying about where they had last been used; occasionally three or four of these binders had been drawn together, and two or three furrows ploughed round them to protect them from the prairie fires. The houses were all of wood, and the stables, a

rude frame of logs covered and sometimes surrounded by a pile of straw. We saw a fair number of cattle and a number of stacks of prairie hay. The surface soil seemed lighter than in Dakota, and we did not think so much of the country.

We were very kindly received in Winnipeg. Winnipeg (formerly Fort Garry) is situated at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, both of which are navigable by steamers for many hundred miles, and is increasing very rapidly in importance. For some years prior to 1871, the population was stationary at about 400. It is now stated to contain 12,000 inhabitants, though it did not look to us like a city of more than 10,000.

In order to see as much of Manitoba as possible our party divided, part going west as far as Rapid City, on the Little Saskatchewan. I only went as far west as Portage-la-Prairie, 65 miles, and afterwards went to the district on Tobacco Creek, at the foot of the Pembina Mountains, about 90 miles south-west of Winnipeg. The first journey took nearly four days, the latter five. We travelled in spring waggons, holding four persons and some baggage, drawn by a pair of horses, costing us about 24s. a day. The road from Winnipeg to Portage-la-Prairie is about equal to a fair peat road, and innocent of macadam. The larger creeks are bridged over, and some of the smaller filled with bundles of willows, which make them fairly passable. The road is the great highway of the North-West, and is traversed daily by trains of Red River carts carrying goods to the North-West and bringing back furs and other produce. These carts are constructed entirely of wood, and drawn by oxen or ponies. They carry a load of 80 to 1,000 lbs., and some go 1,000 miles to the foot of the Rocky Mountains. The trail frequently shifts 50 to 100 yards to avoid places which become bad; and in the rainy season, June, the roads are very heavy, and no travelling is done which can be avoided. In some places a corduroy road has been made and covered with earth from the ditches on each side, but, as a rule, there has been little attempt at road-making, the trail winding over the open prairie or through clumps of willow and scrub oaks. Near Winnipeg we passed some good farms of dry land belonging to Mr. D. A. Smith, the Hon. James McKay, and others. Mr. McKay has a small herd of tame buffaloes and some buffalo crosses. Some ten miles out we passed the copse wood mentioned, but there is no heavy timber except along the banks of the Assiniboine on the left. There are a good many half-breed settlers on the banks of this river, their claims being very narrow, but extending back from two to four miles. We stayed all night at an inn at Pigeon Creek. Part of the district beyond this is low and marshy, but at Poplar Point we find good dry land, thickly settled; and at High Bluff, some six or eight miles from the Portage, is some of the most desirable land we saw in N.-W. It was rich, dry soil, settled and tenced. The crop was stacked in the fields, and on some farms thrashing was going on. We called on some farmers from Ontario, who settled here some years ago and are doing well. The stubble was clean and strong, and we took samples of the wheat, which was very good. We heard very different statements of the yield of wheat, varying from 25 to 40 bushels. McLean, a farmer near Portage, had 1,230 bushels of wheat off 40 acres. Another man, a native of Ross-shire, who was ploughing his own land, told us that he had cropped it for 17 years in succession, his last crop yielding 35 bushels per acre. Mr. Ryan, M.P., a good authority, said the average of wheat might safely be taken at 25 to 30 bushels, 60 lbs., and of oats, at 60 bushels, 34 to 38 lbs. We also saw an Ontario farmer, who came here some years ago and bought 500 acres of land at \$10 per acre. He had 300 acres of arable and 200 under timber, the latter being probably the most valuable portion.

There is a saw-mill at the Portage, the timber being floated down the Assiniboine a distance of 300 miles. The price of wheat at the time of our visit was 55 cents at the Portage and 65 at Winnipeg, but it soon after advanced 10 cents to 15 cents. The rate of freight to Montreal is about 34 cents per bushel, but as soon as the railway is opened to Thunder Bay, which is expected in less than two years, the rate will not exceed 25 cents; and is put by some as low as 17 cents per bushel. As a field for wheat-raising I would much prefer Manitoba to Dakota. The first cost of land is less; the soil is deeper and will stand more cropping; the sample of wheat is better,

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and the produce 5 to 20 bushels per acre more, all of which is profit; and as soon as the new railway is opened the cost of delivering it at the seaboard will be the same or less. I have not before referred to the grasshoppers, a scourge which has visited the country several times and destroyed the crops. The settlers do not seem to fear them much as they only appear at considerable intervals, and disappear altogether when the country is cultivated. With regard to the competition of this western wheat in our markets, wheat sold at 70 cents in Manitoba leaves a good profit to the grower, and will cost, delivered in England, about 4s. 6d. per bushel, a price which does not pay the English farmers. It is evident, however, that this western grain is affecting the Eastern States of America quite as much as this country. The average crop of the United States is surprisingly low, the returns for a good many States being as low as 12 to 14 bushels per acre; this evidently does not pay the grower, and many are therefore giving up wheat, and going in more for other branches of farming. Much of the wheat-producing land in the east being thus, for a time at least, exhausted, supplies will have to come from the virgin soils of the west, and as these are rapidly undergoing the same process, the farmers of the United States will, before very many years, be very much on a level with the farmers of this country. The *virgin soils* of Canada are, however, much more extensive, and will probably be able to send us wheat when the United States have ceased to be an exporting country.

In returning to Winnipeg we made a detour of some miles to the north of High Bluff, and found it all good, dry prairie, pretty well settled. Returning to the main road, night came on, and we travelled at a walk for two weary hours before reaching our halting-place. We passed the tents and fires of many of the cart trains encamped for the night, and could hear the bells on their horses and their cattle feeding around, though we could not see them in the darkness. We had some difficulty in keeping the track; and in crossing some of the sloughs or ditches had to light matches and show the way over the willow bridges. We were heartily glad to reach the first inn. Next day we met many emigrants going west, and conversed with several. One, a native of Lanarkshire, had first heard of the fertility of Manitoba from an old Hudson's Bay man in Glasgow 30 years ago. He had been over most of the United States as a mechanic, and was now going to land he had taken up, 20 miles west of the Portage. We also met Mr. John Henry, a brother of Mr. Henry, Bogfoot, in the Stewartry, going west with his family. He had sold his Ontario farm of 200 at 47 dollars per acre, and taken up 320 acres of land for himself, and the same for each of his five sons, on the Government terms—in whole, 1,920 acres of fine land, eight miles west of Rapid City; and was highly pleased with his prospects. This is a good illustration of an anecdote Lord Dufferin related in one of his speeches.

When Lord Dufferin was on his way to Canada to enter on the office of Governor General, he visited the steerage and addressed the emigrants, numbering some 400, who were in the ship. One man complained that he had too large a family. Lord Dufferin, in the course of his remarks, referred to this, and said that in the old country it was possible sometimes for a man to be burdened by too large a family, but in the country to which they were going a man could hardly have too many children. Whereupon a stalwart young fellow slapped his Lordship on the back and exclaimed—"Right you are, sir, that's just what I have been telling Emily."

These Ontario settlers are evidently the best for Manitoba. They have had some experience of the country, and are well prepared for the difficulties of pioneer life. Nearer Winnipeg we met a large party of emigrants from England, with their train of waggons and Red River carts. They had come out in connection with the Dominion S. S. Company to settle on the Company's lands. They were halted for their mid-day meal, and as the weather was fine, accepting the situation cheerfully. Many of them were fashionably dressed and evidently new to the life they were adopting, and as they had a journey of 14 days before them, we fear, should bad weather set in, things would not continue so pleasant. They would have houses to build, and many preparations to make; and were going west far too late in the season.

These trains were not without an element of sadness. We met a stalwart, quiet-looking Yorkshireman with three nice-looking, but evidently motherless girls, from 10 to 14 years of age. Beaten at home, he was entering a new country to try again. His span of oxen were jaded and evidently inferior, and he had already fallen behind the main party. He would require a change of oxen to get over the 150 miles of road to Rapid City. The old man's prospects were not bright, but the girls will doubtless soon find homes of their own.

Winnipeg is the best place to buy waggons, cattle, implements, &c.; but settlers should take advantage of the competition in trade which exists. We found that some settlers had paid considerably more than they should have done for some of their waggons, &c. It is a great mistake for emigrants to take heavy or bulky articles with them—the carriage costs more than they are worth.

Next day we started for the Pembina district. Crossing the Assiniboine our road lay for 40 miles south along the bank of the Red River. For 10 miles or so to the La Salle river the road passes through rather low and wooded country, most of the timber being small copse. We then emerged on open prairie, most of the river lots being settled and under cultivation. This continued, with intervals of unbroken prairie, all the way to Morris, which we reached at dusk. The prairie west of the road was mostly unbroken, and had been swept by fire. We saw a good many stacks of prairie hay and some cattle. Prairie grouse were pretty numerous, and we shot 25 brace on this journey. The land at Morris is hardly so heavy as nearer Winnipeg. Crops were reported to average 18 to 22 bushels per acre.

Next day we struck west along the base line, and ten miles out reached the Lowe farm, the only house for 25 miles. We were kindly entertained by Mr. Lowe, junr., on our return. This farm consists of 19,000 acres, which Messrs. Lowe intend farming on a scale similar to the Dalrymple farms. They have erected a fine house and buildings, and have 500 acres broken for next crop. They have had some loss among their horses, the work of breaking being severe, and the hay and water not suiting horses from Ontario at first. Oxen or mules do better for breaking. They have also had some difficulty in getting good water, and have put down a bore of 90 feet to the rock, where they hope to find a good supply. Meantime they have to draw supplies some distance. Water is one of the first considerations with the settler. It is rare that water is so difficult to get as in the case we have mentioned. The water of the creeks is good; and we made a point of tasting the well water at a good many places we visited. Sometimes it was sweet, and sometimes it had an alkaline or sulphurous taste, but stock take it readily enough. The Lowe farm is all level prairie, with a little marsh, on which you might drive a plough for miles in any direction. It is intersected here and there by small channels or coolées, which carry off the water in spring, but do not impede the plough or reaper. The soil is a rich, black mould 18 inches deep on a clay subsoil.

Our trail for several miles lay through the south corner of the big marsh, consisting of many thousand acres, which is flooded by the Boyne River in the rainy seasons, but could be drained with little difficulty. It was covered with most luxuriant grass, in some places three to four feet high. In some places it was still soft, and the horses went up to their knees and pulled us through with difficulty. We travelled over 40 miles, and reached Messrs. Riddell's farm on Tobacco Creek just in time. We were hardly well inside when a thunderstorm, with heavy rain came on, and a very dark night. Next day we drove over Messrs. Riddell's farm, and some of the surrounding country. Messrs. Riddell have several thousand acres of nice, dry land, well situated on the Creek, along which there is some fair timber. They have not yet cultivated much wheat, as they are some distance from a market, but they expect ere long to have communication with Winnipeg by the Pembina Railway Branch, which will add greatly to the value of their land. Their wheat has averaged fully thirty bushels per acre. This and the Pembina Mountain district is considered one of the finest parts of the Province of Manitoba. The Pembina Mountains are terraces 200 to 300 feet high, well clad with timber, their summits being an immense plateau of level prairie, which is thickly settled nearly as far west as Rock Lake.

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This district is fairly well wooded and grows the wild dog rose, a sign of good, dry land. We re-crossed the Atlantic with a young man who had bought 320 acres there, with a log-house and some improvements, for 500 dollars. We had fine weather for our return to Winnipeg.

We drove out to Mr. Gerrie's farm on Sturgeon Creek, eight miles north-west of Winnipeg. Mr. Gerrie owns 40,000 acres in different parts of the province, and has here a block of 5,000 acres, nearly all dry and well situated. The soil is a black loam of 12 to 18 inches deep on a friable clay loam. A crop of oats, sown on breaking, had been very bulky; but the quantity of the oats grown on new land is generally poor. Mr. Gerrie had sold a part of this block at \$1 an acre. Returning to Winnipeg we passed through a considerable breadth of lower land on which hay had been cut. We saw loads going into town, where it sells from 6 to 8 dollars a ton in quantity. Six dollars is about the lowest price; and as the cost of cutting, stacking, and delivering in town does not exceed 3 to 3½ dollars per ton, it seems to be a profitable business on land which yields two tons per acre, and which can be bought at less than 5 dollars.

We also drove out with Mayor Logan and some other gentlemen to Bird Hill, east of the Red River, from which we had a fine view. The country east of the river is more rolling and broken than on the west side, and more wooded. We saw prairie fires to the south and west. The railway from Winnipeg to Selkirk is now finished, and we saw here some large deposits of gravel, which, by-the-by, will be of great use in road-making. We passed through the settlement of Kildonan, which skirts both banks of the Red River, north of Winnipeg. It was settled by Highlanders from Sutherlandshire in 1812. The claims are from 5 to 12 chains wide, and go four miles back. Only a small portion along the river is cultivated, the rest being used for hay and pasture. We saw land which had been in wheat from 35 to 50 years. We took samples of the wheat soil and subsoil. We also saw some first-rate turnips. We did not see any signs of manure being applied, though we saw manure heaps, the accumulation of 20 years. As there is no decrease of crops the natives do not think it necessary to use manure yet; indeed, it has been customary to draw the manure on to the ice of the river in winter and allow it to go off in the spring freshets. Others, who had not this facility, had found it necessary to remove their barns rather than remove the manure heap. The cultivated land was clean, and seemed in good condition.

On the banks of the river we could see a depth of 12 to 14 feet of soil, all an alluvial deposit. The settlement of Selkirk, farther down the river, was settled in the same way, and is similar to Kildonan. Returning to Winnipeg, we saw a start being made on the first section of the Canada-Pacific Railway, west of this point. The construction of this section is contracted for at \$6,000 per mile, being little more than the cost of rails, sleepers, and ballasting. The cost of working will also be light, as the steepest gradient from Lake Superior to the Rocky Mountains does not exceed 1 in 100. When in Winnipeg a banquet was given to the Ministers Aikins and Bowell, to which the delegates were invited, and at which a great future for the Canadian North-West was confidently predicted. Mr. Cowan, from Wigtonshire, who visited the district west of the Portage, as far as Rapid City, describes that country in his report. Mr. M'Kenzie, who came from Ontario eleven years ago, gave Mr. Gowan some useful information. He owns about 18,000 acres of land, selected very judiciously in various parts of the Province. One of his sons is on a farm of 1,700 acres on the beautiful plain, and he has 300 acres under crop. He has also a grazing farm, 60 miles north-west of the Portage, on which he says 800 acres would yield enough hay to winter 2,000. He lives on a farm of 2,400 acres, 9 miles west of Portage-la-Prairie, some of which he has cultivated for nine consecutive years. His wheat yielded 41 bushels per acre in 1877, 36 bushels last year, and he expects 40 bushels from this year's crop, all of the Fife variety, and 60 to 62 lbs per bushel. He sows wheat from 15th April to 12th May, and reaps in August. Oats may be sown till 20th May, and barley as late as 10th June. Oats yield 75 to 80 bushels per acre, 34 to 36 lbs.; barley, 40 to 45 bushels, 50 to 52 lbs. He drills in

about 2 bushels of each. His land is good black loam, 18 inches deep, on a subsoil of 3 or 4 feet of loamy clay, and grows excellent crops of roots of all kinds. Potatoes, with very rude cultivation, grow 7 to 10 tons per acre, and turnips as high as 30 tons without manure, Swedes frequently weigh 16 to 20 lbs. One exhibited last year weighed 36 lbs. Good water is found at 16 feet, and stock do well. Mr. M'Kenzie has a stock of very useful well-bred cattle, the best in the Province. He finds a ready market for all his produce in settlers coming in, and expects to need no other for some years. He pays £40 a year and board for white labour, and 2s. per day and board for Indian labour. He had an Indian ploughing one of his fields. Mr. M'Kenzie must be considered a good authority on the matter of crops, but his results are evidently considerably better than the average, and it would not be safe to calculate on his figures.

Though we spent nearly four weeks on our Manitoba journey, we saw only a very small proportion of the 9,000,000 acres it contains; and as Manitoba is only the beginning of the immense extent of fertile country which extends to the foot of the Rocky Mountains, we can hardly do more than say that we have had our foot in the North-West. The British possessions in North America are larger than the whole of Europe, and larger than the United States, without Alaska; and as the wheat region through which the Canada Pacific Railway will pass is estimated to contain 160 million acres, the Canadians may well be enthusiastic over their possessions. None of the delegates went west of Rapid City, but the south to the Assiniboine is reported good dry land, water good and timber scarce. At Shoal Lake, 40 miles N. W., the land is similar, and on to Fort Ellice and the Touchwood Hills. As Edmonton, 850 miles, the land is said to be undulating and of the finest descriptions, and those who have visited the Peace River describe it as the finest country of the whole, and say that, notwithstanding its high latitude, it grows wheat well, while, owing to its situation on the east slope of the Rocky Mountains, the climate is much milder than much lower latitudes. A reference to a map on which isothermal lines of winter and summer are marked, will illustrate this. But I may say that, while it is in the same latitude as Scotland, the summer is similar to that of Belgium. Most of the land in the Province of Manitoba is now taken up, and emigration is flowing westward to the free grant lands. The land is surveyed in sections of a mile square, or 640 acres—half of these sections, corresponding to the white squares of a draught board, are reserved as railway lands, and sold at fixed prices according to distance from the line of railway. The sections corresponding to the black squares are reserved as free grant lands—each settler receiving 160 acres on payment of a nominal sum, and with power to buy 160 acres more on easy terms, the price varying from 1 to 2½ dollars per acre. The policy of the Government is, if possible, to build the railway ahead of settlement, but we hardly think it will succeed. The Government also wish to prevent speculators getting possession of large breadths of land to hold on speculation, but in this they have hitherto failed, as many men own from 10 to 40 thousand acres within 100 miles of Winnipeg. These lands, at present, bring in no revenue to the owners; indeed it is probable that some are paying interest on the purchase money at high rates. These lands are all for sale at prices from one to five dollars per acre for unbroken land, and in some cases improved lots might be bought for the higher sum. There are many men who have taken up homesteads and pre-emptions who will sell their rights for a small profit; so there is no likelihood of land being scarce for many years to come, and settlers who can pay the prices I have named do not require to go far west unless they choose.

On the whole, I was favourably impressed with Manitoba, and the other delegates whom I met expressed the same opinion. No one who sees the immense extent of fertile soil and the excellence of its products can doubt for a moment that there is a great future before that country. Nearly everyone we met who had seen anything of the North-West spoke of it in glowing terms; and though it is necessary to allow considerable discounts on the statements of those who have not much experience in agriculture, we were satisfied that settlers with industry, experience, and some capital could not fail to do well. A man with £100 can make a start on a homestead; and

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man with £200 to £300 can start well; but, as a rule, men with more capital have the best chance.

Stock do well, but require shelter and hay in winter. There is a good home-trade in cattle, large numbers being imported at present from Minnesota. The cattle we saw in Manitoba were good and strong, rather short of breeding, but infinitely superior to the Texas and native Colorado cattle we afterwards saw in the Chicago markets. We think Galloway cattle would suit the country well. Yearling cattle were selling at 12 to 16 dollars; two-year-olds at 20 to 25 dollars; and three-year-olds at 40 to 45 dollars. Draught oxen bring 90 to 180 dollars per pair according to size, condition, and training. Most of the settlers at present are avoiding the low lands and taking up the dry lands for wheat-growing, which gives a quicker return than cattle; but as soon as stock-raising is more general, we think these lands will be found very valuable. We saw some few flocks of 50 to 100 sheep. In some districts a spear grass grows, which gets into the wool, pierces the skin, and kills the animals; but this only occurs at one part of the year, and when the land is cultivated this grass disappears. Like cattle, sheep require shelter and hay in winter. The disadvantages of Manitoba are at present bad roads, especially in the rainy season—the long winter of fully five months, the scarcity of wood and of water in some parts, the musquitos and black flies, which for a couple of months in summer, and especially in marshy places, are very annoying to man and beast, and particularly to new settlers. The opening of the railway will help to get over the first difficulty, and also bring in supplies of timber where needed. Care is required in selecting land where good water can be had. The winter is long and the temperature often very low; but we were assured by Governor Morris and others that the cold is not severe, as the air is generally still and clear, and that even invalids with weak lungs find the climate healthy and pleasant. There is no cure for the insect plagues, which, however, disappear as the land is drained and cultivated. It is well for the emigrant to be prepared for these difficulties, which we would be careful neither to exaggerate nor conceal.

As a field for money-making and enterprise we consider the North-West decidedly the best part of the Dominion; and those who are willing to face these difficulties and disadvantages of pioneer life—difficulties and disadvantages which will be rapidly overcome, and which are nothing to those which the early settlers in Ontario had to contend with—have every prospect of success and independence. It would be a great mistake to suppose that I recommend Manitoba to all who think of emigrating. The propriety of going there depends very much on the means and habits of the emigrant. There are many whom I could not recommend to make a change, which would involve the loss of a good many of their present life comforts, and which might be especially hard on the female members of the family; but young people with health, energy, and some means, accustomed to work, would certainly improve their position and do well. There are many families, too, who may be working as hard here, without making things any better, as they would have to do there, for whom the change would be a good one. Men of capital might also, by residing in Winnipeg, secure for their families and themselves all the advantages of city life until they chose to remove to their farms.

We left Winnipeg on Tuesday, 21st October, and, travelling night and day, reached Chicago in 48 hours. We passed over the St. Paul and Pacific, Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul, and Michigan Central Railways, a distance of 1,200 miles, on free passes. These railways carry most of the emigrants who go to the North-West at present, and the arrangements are very satisfactory. During the whole of the first day we traversed the expanse of burned prairie we have already described, which often stretched away for miles to the horizon, unbroken by a house or tree, but strewn with numerous bones of buffalo, deer and other animals, scattered over the surface, or half buried in the soil.

Near Emerson and Cookson we saw some farms of considerable size; on one there were excellent buildings, and five or six teams were returning from work. On another we saw ten horses at work driving a thrashing machine. There were more

than 100 large stacks of wheat in the fields and in the buildings, and it struck us that there was work enough for a steam thrasher, and that the horses would have been better employed ploughing. At night we passed some extensive prairie fires, which were tearing along before a brisk wind, and, where the grass was high, leaping to a great height. It was a grand sight. We heard that many settlers had lost houses and crops by recent fires.

We spent two weeks in Ontario, which was not sufficient to see it thoroughly, but our visit was cut short by an early fall of snow. We visited some farms near Toronto, on one of which we saw stumps extracted by an ingenious machine. Two men and a boy and a pair of light horses were pulling up large pine stumps expeditiously. These stumps are not ripe for pulling for seven or eight years after the trees are cut, and in passing through the Province the patches of land under stumps, and the snake or rail fences, were the strangest features.

We visited Guelph and were kindly entertained by Messrs. M'Crea, natives of Balmaghie, and several other gentlemen. This is one of the best farmed districts in Canada, the stock of cattle on several farms being exceptionally good. The chief attraction here was the Ontario School of Agriculture and Model Farm, an excellent institution, partly supported by Government. They have at present 88 pupils, and have had to refuse many applications for want of accommodation. The pupils study and work half time. They are paid for their labour according to industry and ability, and it is possible for an active lad to make payments for work to nearly cover the charges of the school. We were shown over the farm by the Professor of Agriculture, Mr. Brown, a Scotchman. We saw a fine field of turnips tested to average 20 tons per imperial acre—10 or 12 sorts of swedes had been tried. Experiments were also being made with different varieties of wheat. The pastures were sown out with clover and timothy, and were fairly good, but rather patchy in places. The land is a good, deep, gravelly loam, heavier than similar land here, and not so red in colour; some parts seemed rather soft and heavy. It was clean and in good order. The stock included good specimens of shorthorn, Hereford, Devon, Polled Angus, Galloway and Ayrshire cattle; and of Southdown, Cotswold and Leicester sheep; a good many of the animals being imported from this country. Several of the horses were very nearly pure Clydesdale. They are at present carrying on experiments in cattle-feeding with animals of different breeds, and test the increase of live weight on the scales from time to time. Professor Brown expects each animal to gain 2 lbs., per head, daily. He has found it profitable to reduce the allowance of roots to 30 or 40 lbs. daily, and allow a larger quantity of grain, &c.—6 lbs. to 10 lbs., according to circumstances. He has tried steaming and chopping all the food, but found the stock do equally well on the raw food. In experimenting with various forms and kinds of food, he found that pigs made most progress on peas supplied whole, although a considerable proportion seemed to pass through the animals undigested. The results of these experiments, as well as a general report of the affairs of the school and farm, are published annually, and form an interesting and instructive volume. We saw parties of students engaged on various farm work, attending stock, and threshing out experimental lots of grain. We think this is a valuable institution, and worthy of imitation in this country. We visited several farms in this district. At Mr. Stone's we saw some very good shorthorn stock and Cotswold sheep. At Mr. M'Crea's we saw good turnips, and a nice herd of Galloways, including some of the principal prize winners at Ottawa. At Mr. Hobson's farm we saw some excellent shorthorns. Mr. Hobson feeds a good many cattle, buying half fat cattle in December and January, and feeding till June. He allows 12 lbs. to 15 lbs. meal daily and 60 lbs. roots. He also feeds off 400 lambs on rape, buying them in August at 10s. to 12s. each, and making them worth 22s. to 24s. by middle of December. The rape is sown in drills and worked same as turnips. On this farm of 300 acres, 240 cleared, four men are employed in summer and two in winter, with some extra help at busy seasons. Mr. Hobson estimates the necessary capital for such a farm at £3 per acre. Of course, where pedigree stock is kept, it is much higher. We visited a farm of 180 acres, all good land except 20 acres, which

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was for sale at about £13 per acre. It was a nice place, near a railway station. The house was new—had cost £300; and the buildings fair. Another farm of 200 acres, let at 12s. an acre, was considered too dear. The soil was a fair, sandy loam on a clay subsoil, intersected with a gravelly ridge. The turnips were a very good crop. The divisions of crop on this farm were as follows:—70 acres hay, 60 pasture, 15 turnips, 90 fall wheat, 20 peas, 20 oats.

The taxes payable by the tenant were £13, in addition to eight days' statute road labour. This farm was part of a block of 500 acres for sale at £12 per acre. Near Guelph we saw two farms of 400 acres farmed by two sons of the late Mr. Gerrard Marchfield. They pay about £200 a year rent and taxes, and are said to be doing well. These seemed very desirable farms, in a good situation, and were for sale, price £12 to £13 per acre.

We passed through part of the Paisley block, a district settled a good many years ago by emigrants from Paisley, few of whom had been brought up to farming. They have in nearly all cases been successful, and possess very comfortable residences, and tidy, well-managed farms.

We next visited Galt, where a large proportion of the people are of Scotch descent. Mr. Cowan, a native of Dumfriesshire, has a good farm of 540 acres in the neighbourhood. Mr. Cowan is a member of Parliament, and well-known as a breeder of Leicester sheep. We saw a first-rate flock of ewes. He also breeds shorthorns. The land is mostly rolling—a deep sandy loam, and free from stones.

We went to Bow Park, near Brantford, where we met an old acquaintance, Mr. John Clay, junr., of Kerchesters. Bow Park belongs to the Hon. George Brown, of Toronto, a gentleman of much spirit and enterprise, who founded the splendid herd of shorthorn cattle there. Mr. Clay had just returned from Chicago, where he had sold 40 head of shorthorns at an average of 60 guineas each, and some Clydesdale horses at handsome prices. After luncheon we inspected the splendid buildings and the stock they contained. There are at present about 340 head of shorthorns and one or two Clydesdale horses on the farm. We first saw a very fine lot of one and two-year-old heifers, including some very stylish animals. We then passed through the stable for 24 horses, the immense barn filled with crop and hay, and root-house underneath. In a shed containing 44 loose boxes we found a splendid collection of cows and heifers of the Oxford, Princess, Duchess, and other famous tribes. Many of the animals were very fine and had been imported from England at great expense. Some had just returned from a round of shows, where they had carried all before them. In other sheds we found more cows and heifers and Fifth Duke of Clarence, a magnificent bull of great style and substance. Mr. Clay informed us that they found a ready market for their young stock, chiefly in the United States. Now that Canadian cattle are shut out they will have to find a market in Canada; but judging from the impetus which has been given to cattle-breeding by the export trade to England, we would expect the home trade to increase and by-and-bye pay the proprietors. The importation and breeding of such a class of cattle is calculated to be of untold benefit to the province, and indeed the whole Dominion. Bow Park estate contains 900 acres of fine sandy land, situated in a loop of the Grand River, and grows excellent crops of Indian corn, rye, barley and oats. A large breadth is cut for hay and the 150 acres of Indian corn are also cut green and stand in the field in stack till required for stock. The stock consume all the produce of the farm.

We drove from Brantford to Paris through a very nice country. On the way we visited a very nice farm of 540 acres, 80 acres in wood, nicely situated and well laid out. The house was fine, but buildings inferior. The land was a deep sandy loam, easily cultivated, but not in good order. We saw a 60-acre field of grass sown down five or six years ago, which was the best sole of grass we saw in Canada. This was a most desirable farm, and was for sale.

We went from Paris to Woodstock in Oxford County, and visited Mr. Donaldson's farm of 300 acres at Zorra. Mr. Donaldson is a native of Cumberland, and had excellent farm buildings and very good turnips. He feeds a good many cattle and gave us some details of expenses and returns. He allowed 60 to 70 lbs. turnips, and 8 to

10 lbs. meal and bran daily, which he estimated rather low, we thought, at 3s. per week. His cattle paid 13s. per month for grazing without cake, and from 22s. to 30s. per month for house feeding. He estimates grazing sheep at 3d. per week, and wintering at 6½d. or 20s. 6d. per annum. Ewes kept in this way should pay nearly 30s. each in wool and lambs. He estimates cost of fattening sheep in winter at 7½d. per week, including an allowance of grain. Sheep, like cattle, require to be housed in winter, and do well, if not too crowded—40 in a lot being sufficient. Sheep in Canada are not affected by scab, foot-rot or murrain.

We stayed a night with Mr. Dunlop, a native of Ayrshire. Mr. Dunlop has his farms let at about 12s. per acre. He also owns land in Dakota, and furnished us with useful information. He estimates the necessary working capital for a farm of 200 acres in Oxford County, where 20 to 50 per cent. of the land is still under timber, at 43s. to 50s. per acre, but of course many start with much less. The annual labour bill would amount to 16s. to 20s. per acre if hired, but on such farms the farmer takes an active part in the work. He estimates the cost of raising fall wheat, including rent and taxes, at 75s. per acre, and of spring wheat at 50s. Barley sometimes pays as well as wheat, but prices are more fluctuating. Oats are only grown for home consumption.

We visited a large cheese factory at Strathallan Station recently erected on the best principles. The storing-room is placed some 20 feet from the making-room, and is connected with it by a tramway. The piggeries are about 80 yards off. The balance of cheese on hand had been sold at 6½d. per lb.

At Stratford we met Mr. Ballantyne, and visited his factory at Black Creek, eight miles off. This factory was started in 1864, and was one of the first in the neighbourhood. Mr. Ballantyne is largely engaged in the cheese trade, is connected with a good many factories, and is probably as good an authority on cheese-making and the cheese trade as we could have met with. He has devoted great attention to the scientific principles of cheese-making and overcome the main difficulties which American makers have to contend with. He is of opinion that in many cases the milk is tainted before it is drawn from the cow, owing to water, pasture or other subtle causes which affect an article so susceptible of taint as milk. In dealing with such milk (which is indicated by floating gasey curd), Mr. Ballantyne sets at a temperature of 90 deg., he maintains this temperature and draws off the whey as soon as possible, even at the loss of a little curd—as he holds that he gets rid of much of the taint in the whey—and that allowing the whey to remain on the curd simply fixes and increases the taint.

He allows the curd to ripen well before going to press, during a period of from one to five hours, during which the oxygen of the air brings the curd into proper condition. The fitness of the curd for press is tested on a moderately hot iron. If it is sufficiently ripe it should adhere to the iron and draw out in a stringy fashion. I do not know enough of cheese-making to make any remarks of my own on these points, but no doubt many of you can appreciate these hints, which I simply repeat as Mr. Ballantyne stated them. July and August, when the weather is hot, is the most critical season with Canadian cheese makers, and we saw some August cheese made on these principles from tainted milk, which were perfectly sweet. At this factory they receive the milk of 1,000 cows, and make fully a ton of cheese daily. The cows yield most milk in June, some 26,000 lbs. daily, producing 2,600 to 2,700 lbs. cheese. The worst yield is in July. The milk is richest in October, when eight and a half pounds milk will yield one pound of cheese. Farmers sending milk to the factories do not as a rule feed their cows highly, and consider £6 per cow a fair return for the season. Mr. Ballantyne said it would not pay them to make good cheese under 5d. per lb., and that in consequence of the low prices prevailing for some time, many had fed off their cows. The make of American cheese was therefore short, and would probably continue so for some time. He expected to see prices maintained, and did not think makers of fine English cheese would be affected as they had been by American competition for a good few years to come.

We visited Niagara, and were much impressed with the grandeur and magni-

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licence of the falls. The surrounding country is very fine and largely devoted to the growing of fruit. The neighbourhood of Grimsby and St. Catharines are also famous for apples, some farmers growing 2,000 to 4,000 barrels, worth 6s per barrel. The whole of the western peninsula of Ontario is fine, and we would have liked to visit the Counties of Kent, Huron, Wellington, Grey, and Bruce, all of which are fine lands, but the ground being covered with an early fall of snow, we had to give up that idea. A fine stretch of land lies all the way from Kent to Lake Huron; the County of Huron being recently settled, land is cheaper than in other districts, and very good land can be bought at £8 to £10 per acre. East of Toronto, along Lake Ontario, there is some good land, especially in the neighbourhood of Markham, Whitby, and Port Hope, prices reaching £16 to £20 per acre; farther back round Peterborough the land is more broken and about half these prices. The land round the Bay of Quinté is considered the finest barley soil in Canada, and large quantities of barley are grown and exported to the United States. Some farmers here grow barley on half their farm, and keep very little stock. The crop ranges from 30 to 50 bushels per acre, worth 55 to 70 cents. The land around Kingston lies on a limestone formation, and is light and broken. We drove 12 miles east along the St. Lawrence, and saw some fair farms, but were not very favourably impressed with the district. Belleville and Prince Edward's County are good, and contain many cheese factories. Dairy farming is also general around Brockville, butter being made at many factories in that district.

We met here a dealer who had been exporting cattle to England. He was paid during spring and early summer, but latterly had lost money, especially on a lot of grass-fed cattle, which sold for £13 5s. a head. He had paid four dollars a head forfeit on 70 cattle rather than ship them to England, where they would probably have lost 10 dollars each. Freight in spring and summer, when shipping was briskest, were £5 to £5 10s, Montreal or Quebec to Liverpool, and came down in autumn as insurance increases, and shipments fall off, to £3 10s. This gentleman said the farmer was not paid for feeding cattle on corn for less than five cents per lb., live weight, and said nothing but such cattle would stand the voyage, and pay to send here. He estimated the cost of cattle fed in Ontario and sold here as under—

Bullock, 1,600 lbs., at 5 cents.....	£16	9	0	
Freight and expenses to shipping port.....	1	0	0	
Ocean freight.....	5	0	0	
Insurance, 2½ per cent.....	0	10	0	
Keep and attendance on voyage.....	0	10	0	
Commission and expenses in England.....	1	0	0	
	£24	9	0	
Estimated cost to dress 900 lbs. beef, 6½d.....	24	7	0	
	Loss	0	2	0
900 lbs. beef at 7d., £26 4s. 6d.	Gain	1	15	6
Bullock 1,400 lbs. at \$4.65 per 100.....	£13	8	0	
Expenses as above.....	8	0	0	
	£21	8	0	
Sold, say 784 lbs beef, 6½d.....	21	4	1	
	Loss	0	3	4
Or 784 lbs. beef at 7d., £22 17s. 4d.	Gain	1	9	4

This statement agrees very closely with our Chicago calculations, and seems to show that beef cannot be sent here to pay much under 7d. per lb. 2½ per cent. is a

low rate of insurance, applicable to contracts from 1st May to 1st September; from 1st September to 15th September it is $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and increases to 7 per cent. in November, and 8 per cent. in December and January. This party also said that he thought fully one-third more cattle were being stall-fed in Canada this winter, but that at present the stock of shipping cattle was cleared out, and though he had been offered freight at £3 10s. he did not know where to find a waggon load of suitable cattle.

We paid a rather hurried visit to the Maritime Provinces of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, going by rail from Boston to St. Johns. From Bangor, in the State of Maine, to St. Johns, we travelled all day through a thickly-wooded country of no agricultural value. We saw numerous saw-mills, but often passed for hours through forest without seeing a house. In many places the heavy timber had been cleared off—in others it was too small for cutting. Much of it was second growth spruce and tamarac, and in some places scrubby birch. Some parts of the forest had been swept by fire, and the remains of giant trees were lying in indescribable confusion. Here and there a giant pine towered above the undergrowth, naked and dead, the top broken off by storm or lightning, and the trunk blackened by fire. Some of the heaviest timber had grown where the land was covered by granite boulders, and seemed incapable of supporting vegetation. Where the land was low and marshy, the timber was poor and stunted. During the whole day's journey we did not see 500 acres of cultivated land. Mr. Livingstone, Government Agent at St. Johns, informed us that up the River St. John, 100 miles between Fredericton and Woodstock, there is a good agricultural district being rapidly settled, but time did not permit us to visit it. We saw some of the country round St. Johns, but it is not well adapted for cropping, the early summer months being damp and foggy. We sailed across the Bay of Fundy to Annapolis, in Nova Scotia, and travelled through the Annapolis Valley, which is about 90 miles long and four to eight miles wide. At the lower end there are extensive meadows reclaimed from the sea, and we saw hundreds of small hay ricks perched on circular stands of stakes three or four feet high. The soil of this valley varied from heavy clay to sandy loam, and in some places was low and peaty. There was not much under cultivation, the most of it being in pasture or meadow. We saw a good many orchards, the valley being famous for apples. The hills along each side are more or less covered with timber, and resembled somewhat the shores of Loch Ness or Loch Lochy, but are not so high or rugged. The farm-houses seem neat and comfortable, but we did not see much sign of agricultural enterprise. Crops there are sown in May and reaped in August. On the 18th November we went by rail from Halifax to Amherst, and saw no good agricultural land till we reached Truro, which is pleasantly situated, and here we saw the first of the famous grass marshes of the district. These marshes are flat at the upper end of the Bay of Fundy. They are formed by the alluvial deposits of high tides, and are similar to the warp lands of Lincolnshire. They are protected by dykes and sluices, and are very rich, producing crops of two to three tons hay per acre year after year without manure or decrease. The tidal deposit is large, sometimes reaching two inches in high tides. These lands are valued at from £15 to £25 per acre. The adjoining elevated lands are good red soil. We drove from Amherst to Sackville, ten miles through these marshes. The hay is of two kinds: broad leaved hay, a coarse grass two to two and a quarter feet long, and resembling prairie hay; the other, called English hay, is a mixture of timothy and other sown grasses, and resembling strong meadow or lea hay. The former was put up in ricks of about a ton each, and we saw thousands scattered over these meadows; the latter was stored in numerous wooden sheds. These meadows were quite a new feature to us, and were the richest grazing lands we saw in Canada. Mr. J. L. Black, M.P., and some other gentlemen, met us at Sackville, and we drove to Mr. Wood's farm, and saw some 20 good large bullocks just put up to feed. We also saw some very good one and two-year-old cattle, which were above the average of our store cattle in respect to quality. Mr. Wood and his neighbour, Mr. Humphrey, are putting up 50 cattle each to be ready for our market in spring. Having only begun, they could not give any exact details of their system or expense

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of feeding, but we think they have good facilities for raising cattle in this district, and are nearer the winter ports of shipment than any other part of Canada. The Counties of Pictou, Colchester and Cumberland are the best agricultural districts; and Grand Pre (the scene of Longfellow's poem) is called the garden of Nova Scotia. Westmoreland, in New Brunswick, is similar to Cumberland; Prince Edward's Island, which we had not time to visit, contains a considerable proportion of good farming land. The southern coast of Nova Scotia is rocky and wild, but in the south-west a good many sheep are kept, the winter climate being modified by the Gulf Stream. The sea fisheries of Nova Scotia are valuable and worth \$6,000,000 a year; and the salmon fishing in the rivers of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are splendid. They belong to Government, and some are leased to English gentlemen, but on many streams a fly has never been thrown. June and July are the best months for rod fishing. On one river, last year, three rods killed an average of 2,000 lbs. salmon per day for several successive days. We travelled to Quebec by the Intercolonial Railway. The north of New Brunswick is a hilly and thickly-wooded country, and we saw almost no attempt at cultivation till we reached Rimouski, on the St. Lawrence. From this point to Quebec the bank of the river is settled by French Canadians. In some places we saw considerable stretches of level land, but much of it is stony and all subdivided into narrow strips on the French fashion. The class of cattle we saw were poor. We also visited some of the eastern townships of Quebec, viz., Compton and Sherbrooke. We drove to Mr. Cochrane's farm at Hillhurst, and saw his fine herd of shorthorns, including some very promising calves from the same cows as the heifers lately sold in England at over 4,000 guineas each, and which are probably the most valuable cattle in Canada. The produce of one cow has brought Mr. Cochrane £27,000. This farm consists of 1,600 acres, nice, dry, undulating land—not unlike Galloway land. The soil is a dry loam, with a fair mixture of stones, rather heavier than similar land here. It evidently grows good roots, as Mr. Cochrane's turnips were large and fine, and averaged fully 23 tons per imperial acre. The streams were clear and running over a stony channel. The valley of St. Francis River, which flows past Sherbrooke, resembles the valley of the Dee opposite Burstibly. The land does not seem adapted for growing wheat, but it grows good crops of oats, barley and hay, and grazes well. Cattle may be put to grass early in May, and sometimes in April; and Mr. Cochrane had only put up his feeding cattle at the beginning of November. We drove some miles into the country around Sherbrooke, and regretted we had not time to see more; but as winter was setting in, and snow falling, we returned to Quebec. This country seemed well adapted for stock-raising, and is more like the arable valleys of Galloway than any part of Canada we saw. We were told that good cleared farms of 100 to 200 acres, with good fair buildings, could be bought for £5 to £6 per acre, and £10 per acre would buy a very choice farm. At these prices it seemed cheap, and we would advise any who visit Canada with a view to settling to see this district for themselves.

In offering you these remarks on what we saw in Canada, I must ask you to remember that we have only seen it for a period of nine weeks at one season of the year, and though in that time we travelled between 8,000 and 9,000 miles—often travelling night and day—we saw only a very small portion of the vast territory comprised in the Dominion of Canada. We endeavoured, however, to see as much as the short season would admit of, and found every one ready to give us information. We were not biassed or influenced in any way, but we were allowed every facility to see what we liked and how we liked. We found the Canadian people exceedingly kind, hospitable, and attentive, and warmly attached to the mother country. There was, however, a misapprehension among many with regard to our visit to Canada. They thought that the movement had arisen in this country instead of from their own Government, and accepted it as an outcome of the depression in this country. We met many Canadians, and Americans too, who believed that the old country was "played out" in consequence of American competition, and failed to recognise bad trade and bad seasons as factors in the agricultural depression here. We also found that for at least five years, owing to these same causes, the farmers of

Canada had anything but good times. Many admitted that for several years they had not done more than pay expenses. We met some who made very broad statements, but on the other hand we came in contact with many of the best men in Canada, whose statements could be implicitly relied on, and who frankly gave us both sides of the question. We have already noticed Manitoba, and may now confine our remarks to the older provinces. Of these Ontario and the Eastern Townships of Quebec impressed us very favourably. A great deal of Western Ontario would compare very favourably with some parts of England. The land is good and well managed, there is a nice proportion of timber, and the farmers' houses are in many cases exceedingly neat and comfortable. They have, in fact, an air of refinement and prosperity beyond what we expected in a comparatively new country. We believe it would be hard to find in any country of similar size as many men who had done as well as Ontario farmers. Many who went out 30 to 40 years ago with nothing, now own farms and stock worth £2,000 to £6,000. There are, however, a good many who have mortgages on their farms to a considerable amount, for which they pay 7 or 8 per cent. interest. This, together with bad seasons and emigration to the North-West, accounts for the large number of farms which are at present for sale. I may here remark that the custom of letting land is not so common as in this country. Farms are only let from year to year, and as the tenant in these circumstances is supposed to take out what he can, owners are more ready to sell than let. At the same time, it is possible to get farms on rent, and emigrants from this country would do well to rent a farm for a year or two until they have time to look around.

I have stated the prices at which land in different districts can be bought, and at the prices it could be let to pay from 4 to 6 per cent. on the purchase, with every prospect of an increase of value. In a statement drawn up for us by a committee of practical farmers, the interest on farming capital is shown at 6 per cent. on an average of the last five seasons, which have not been favourable ones. We saw a good deal of land badly farmed, no exact system of rotation has been followed, but successive grain crops have been grown too long, till wheat is in many cases not a paying crop. Farming in Ontario may be said to be in a transition state from crop to stock-raising, as the farmers are beginning to see that they must pay more attention to green crops and stock. The pastures of Ontario did not come up to our expectations, they were generally thin and patchy, but a better system of farming and manuring would no doubt improve them, as the land is naturally good. Very few use artificial manures, yet by-and-bye they are likely to come into more general use. A large buyer of barley told us that a few farmers who used superphosphate sent him barley as much as 5 and 6 lbs. per bushel heavier than their neighbours. Labour in Ontario is about 15 per cent. dearer than in this country, but the farms are evidently worked with fewer hands. We were told again and again that no farmer should go there who did not intend to work, but taking the whole year round we think we know many farmers here who work as hard as farmers seemed to do there. We now come to the question of emigration. I feel that there is much responsibility on answering that question. I am satisfied that men with some capital could make more of it in Canada than in this country. I think there is most money to be made in the North-West, but even in Ontario and the other provinces I think prospects are good. I do not advise people who are doing well here, with a prospect of providing for their families, to change; but those who are working for nothing, and especially those who have a working family, need have no hesitation in going to Canada. They will find in many parts of it as good farmers, as good houses, as good schools, as good neighbours as they have here. They will also remain under the British flag. I met many Americans who did not hesitate to say that some day they expected Canada to be part of the United States; but I have very much mistaken the feelings of Canadians if there is any such feeling on their side of the line. They are proud of their territory in the North-West, proud of their connection with this country, and somewhat jealous of their neighbours. Of course, you will see that considerable capital is required to purchase one of the improved Ontario farms, but in the Eastern Townships, and in many other parts, there is plenty of land at lower prices, which can

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be bought for less than it would have cost a few years ago. In short, young men and men with grown-up families and small capital should go to Manitoba. Men with sufficient capital and young families should settle in the older Provinces, or, should they prefer Manitoba, they might leave their families in town for a year or two, as before suggested. With regard to working men without any capital, I think ordinary labourers are as well off at home; but skilled workmen are well paid, and intelligent men with rising families could improve their position and give their children a better start in life. In all classes industry, economy and intelligence are essential to success.

I feel that in this report I have gone a good deal into detail. I have done so because, though I may have stated my views on some points, I wish any who think of emigrating to be guided by the information I have been able to gather, rather than by any opinions I have expressed. I have been careful to avoid even the appearance of exaggeration. I may possibly have been too cautious, but I wish all I have said in favour of Canada to be taken in its fullest sense.

At the conclusion of Mr. Biggar's address, which was warmly applauded,

The Chairman invited questions, but none were asked.

Mr. Lusk proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Biggar for his very able, comprehensive and interesting account of Canada. (Applause.) They could have found no man more fitted for the position, and they must feel highly gratified at their choice. Mr. Biggar had left his native country at great personal inconvenience, and he had made excellent use of his eyes, legs and ears, and they had listened to his report that day with great pleasure and profit. His report was thoroughly satisfactory, and he hoped it would do good to all parties interested. (Applause.)

REPORT OF MR. GEORGE COWAN, THE DELEGATE FROM WIGTOWNSHIRE.

One of the largest meetings of farmers ever held in Wigtownshire took place on December 19th, in the New Town Hall, Stranraer, the object being to hear from Mr. George Cowan, the popular and genial tenant of Mains of Park, Glenluce, his report on Canada. Mr. Cowan, whose judgment on agricultural matters is always looked up to with respect, was no doubt eminently fitted from his experience for the important task with which his colleagues entrusted him, and it will be seen from the able and lengthy report he made at the meeting yesterday that the confidence reposed in him was by no means misplaced. To welcome him home, and hear his account, came farmers from every part of Wigtownshire, and as a result, great as the accommodation the Town Hall can undoubtedly afford, the room was much too small. Before two o'clock every available inch of standing and sitting room was taken up, and those who came later had to be content with a peep in at the door. The gallery, too, was filled to overflowing, and at length it was found that those who came late had to go away disappointed. At two o'clock Mr. Cowan appeared at the platform and met with a most cordial reception. Mr. A. H. McLean, Auchneel, presided, and on the platform were Messrs. Rankin, Aird; Murdoch, Glenside; Ralston, Milmain; Whyte, Kirkmabreck; Stroyan, Dindinnie, &c. The audience included the Right Hon. Sir John Hay, Bart., C.B., M.P.; Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart., Mr. Mark Stewart, M.P.; Provost Campbell; Rev. Mr. Robertson, Leswalt; Mr. Greig, factor to the Earl of Stair; Mr. McCaig, Kilhilt; Captain Picken, Newton-Stewart; Mr. Nicholson, Penninghame; Mr. W. Agnew, Newton-Stewart; Rev. Geo. Fisher, Glenluce; Messrs. Ferguson, Cults; Symington, Glenluce; Nish, Glenluce; Frederick, Cairnhandy; Frederick, Clendrie; Hunter, Whiteleys; M'Master, Currochtrie; Paterson, Colfin; J. Gordon, Stranraer; Parker, Inchparks; M'William, Craichmore; M'Lolland, Balyett; Agnew, Mark; Gunion, Barsolus; Fowler, Castle-Kennedy; Hunter, Garthland; McDowall, Auchtralure; Martin, Larbrax; Wallace, Banker; Milroy, Balgregan, Campbell, Dunragit; M'Meikan, Knocknean; Stevenson

Knocknean; Maclean, Solicitor; Robertson, Clendry; T. H. Dalrymple, Stranraer; M'Clew, Dinvin; Dunsmore, Solicitor; M'Credie, Grocer, Stranraer; M'Master, Threave Mark; M'Master, Culhorn Mains; Bailie Taylor, Stranraer; M'Camon, Kirronrae; John Todd, Merchant; Cochran Portencallie, Park, Architect; M'Conchie, Mains of Penninghame; M'Illwraith, Barwhannie, &c., &c.

On the motion of Mr. Ralston, Mr. A. H. M'Lean (Auchneel) was called to the chair.

The Chairman said—Gentlemen, on taking the chair, on this interesting occasion, I have to thank you very sincerely for the honour you have conferred upon me. You are not, however, to imagine that I myself have any intention to emigrate, or that I am tired of my own native land. I am too old to be transplanted—(hear, hear)—but I know that the subject of our present meeting is deeply interesting to many of our younger men who are anxious to know the prospects held out to them in the new country. (Applause.) I think the first duty that devolves on me is to ask you to give a cordial welcome to our friend Mr. Cowan—loud applause—who we are all glad to see back amongst us, not looking much the worse, but rather some people say the better of his great fatigue on the other side of the Atlantic. (Applause.) He is before you to give an account of his trip and the views he entertains of the great territory over which he has passed as a field for emigration. I have no doubt that the report, the interesting report, and also I may say the instructive report, he will give you, will justify your choice in electing him as the delegate from this district—(applause)—and the confidence you reposed in him as an honest, impartial, intelligent observer of what came under his review. (Applause.) Without further remarks I beg to call on Mr. Cowan. (Loud applause.)

Mr Cowan on rising to address the meeting met with an ovation. When the cheering had subsided he said: Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, it gives me great pleasure to find myself amongst you again, and the time seems very short indeed since, in this very hall, you honoured me so highly by appointing me your Delegate to go out to the Dominion of Canada, to report on the capacities of that great country, in so far as its agricultural resources are concerned. On that occasion, gentlemen, I promised, to the best of my ability, to bring home an authentic account of its fitness as a field of emigration for the farming population of this country, and now it will be for you to decide, whether or no, I have in any degree fulfilled the promise I then made. At the same time, I must ask you, in forming an opinion about my report, to remember at the time I left these shores, the season was pretty far advanced, and there was only a limited time at my disposal before the advent of winter in Canada; I must also ask you to bear in mind the vast extent of territory in the Dominion, containing as it does 3,500,000 square miles of land. Or, by way of comparison, that it is as large as the whole of Europe, and larger than the United States of America, leaving out Alaska. Gentlemen, I had barely eight weeks to spend in that country, during which time I travelled many thousands of miles, averaging fully 1000 miles per week, and I journeyed as frequently as possible during the night to economise time, but with all that, the time at my disposal was much too short to enable me to do anything like justice to the country; and I feel that it is somewhat presumptuous on my part, to venture to offer an opinion on its agricultural resources, which from the foregoing explanation you will readily understand must necessarily be very incomplete and superficial. Having said so much, I will now state to you the manner in which I propose to proceed. On looking over my notes, I found they were too voluminous to write out fully, I would occupy too much of your time, and become wearisome, were I to attempt to bring all my observations before you, I have therefore thought it best to condense them considerably, and should any one wish for information on any particular subject or with respect to any particular district which I have visited, it will give me great pleasure to give it at some future time. I have endeavoured as much as possible to confine myself to a strict narrative of the facts I was able to glean from my own observation, and from gentlemen with whom I came in contact, and on whose judgment I had good reason

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to rely, about the different systems of farming, descriptions of crops raised, and the most suitable kinds of stock, &c., for the various districts I visited day after day during my hurried journey through the different provinces of the Dominion, and at the close of the report I will venture to give you the impressions made upon me during my visit, with respect to the country, its people, soil, and climate. Gentlemen, in a very few days after my appointment as your delegate, I sailed in one of the Allan Royal Mail Steamers from Liverpool to Quebec, where I arrived after a very pleasant passage on the 28th September last. Immediately after landing, we took the cars for Montreal and Ottawa. On reaching the Capital, I lost no time in reporting myself to the Hon. J. H. Pope, the Minister of Agriculture, who received me courteously, and informed me that every facility would be afforded me to see all that I wished in any part of the Dominion. M. Pope impressed me as being a very shrewd, clever, practical man of business, thoroughly acquainted with all matters pertaining to agricultural affairs, and desirous that the great resources possessed by the Dominion should be made known to the farming population of England or Great Britain. Having expressed a desire to visit the Province of Manitoba, and the North-West Territory, I was at once provided with passes over the various railways between Ottawa and Winnipeg, the distance between the two cities, *via* Chicago and St. Paul's, being something like 1,700 miles, entailing a night and day journey of upwards of 90 hours, or nearly four days. I was so fortunate as to have for travelling companions during most of the journey, Mr. Logan, the Mayor of Winnipeg, and the Hon. Mr. Gault, M. P., for Montreal, and from both of these gentlemen I received much kindness, and also useful and valuable information. On our journey we passed through several of the large Western States of the Union, the scenery of which in many places was very grand. We were also the witnesses of one of the largest prairie fires that has occurred in Minnesota for many years, in which unfortunately, two or more people lost their lives, and a large amount of property was destroyed. I trust I may be excused referring to this as it is somewhat foreign to my subject, but being the first thing of the kind I had ever seen, I was very much impressed with the magnificence of the sight, especially after nightfall, when the train was at one time almost encircled with the flames, which every now and again rose to a great height, rolling on before a strong gale of wind at the rate of many miles per hour. At one place during the night we found the track had been burned through, and a little further on a culvert burned down, the repairing of which caused a detention of nearly 12 hours. At length, however, we reached Winnipeg in safety, and very shortly afterwards the Mayor drove me through the town and introduced me to the Hon. M. Norquay, the Premier of Manitoba, and several other influential gentlemen belonging to the city. Mr. Norquay informed me that the Provincial Show was to be opened at Portage La Prairie the following day for the exhibition of stock, grain, and roots, that he proposed starting for it that evening, and asked me to accompany him. I gladly availed myself of his kindness, and got my first experience of travelling over the prairie under his guidance. I found Mr. Norquay a most genial companion, and was greatly indebted to him for much valuable information respecting the past and present history of the province, and its prospects in the near future. The first half of our journey was after nightfall, so I did not see anything of the country through which we passed. The road being in good order, and having a good team of horses, we reached our destination for the night at 11 p.m., having accomplished our journey of 25 miles in three hours, although we got off the trail once or twice owing to the darkness of the night. During the remaining part of our journey the following morning, we passed through a very fertile district, and it was a pleasant sight to see comfortable-looking farm houses to the right and left, surrounded by large stackyards, which, with the appearance of the stubbles, spoke well for the abundance of the season's white crop. On our arrival at the Portage we found that the exhibition, which was to continue for a couple of days, had been opened. We at once commenced our inspection, and I had reason to congratulate myself in having reached the Portage in time to see it. I was greatly pleased with the samples of the grain and roots exhibited; they were all of

excellent quality, and of the latter, the specimens of potatoes, cabbage, and onions were superior in size to anything I had ever previously seen. Turnips and mangold wurzel, &c., were also very good, as well as the wheat and barley, several samples of which I secured to bring home with me. I also visited the Ladies' show of fancy and other work, which was very interesting, and was highly patronized by the gentlemen as well as the ladies themselves. In the course of the day, I was introduced to a great many of the leading agriculturists of the Province, who seemed to be a body of very intelligent gentlemen, all very sanguine about the great future of their comparatively new country, and very kind in giving me information about it. Amongst others I was introduced to Mr. Kenneth Mackenzie, M.P.P., a gentleman well-known throughout the province of Manitoba and the vast North-West Territory as one of the largest, most enterprising, and successful farmers. Mr. Mackenzie was so kind as to invite me to his home at Burnside, about nine miles from the Portage, which I did, and there spent a couple of days under his hospitable roof. I was greatly indebted to Mr. Mackenzie for much information about the management of the land, &c., in the newly-settled districts, and the yield of the various crops, as well as with regard to the stock kept in the different parts of the Province, and which I was afterwards able to get corroborated with respect to most of the different branches alluded to, from other reliable sources. As Mr. Mackenzie is quite a representative man in the North-West, I propose now to give you a brief history of his hitherto very successful career as a tiller of the soil.

Originally from Scotland, Mr. Mackenzie settled early in life in the Township of Guelph, Province of Ontario, where he remained for a period of a quarter of a century, and being highly skilled as an agriculturist, and particularly with respect to the rearing and management of stock, he was very successful in his farming pursuits, and eventually became the owner of a considerable portion of land. Mr. Mackenzie would probably have ended his days in peace in Ontario, but about eleven years ago, for the sake of his large and rising family of sons, he determined to see for himself the Great North-West, and find out whether the country was as fertile as it was reported to be. At the date already mentioned it was a much more difficult matter to reach Winnipeg (then a small town with only a few hundred inhabitants) than it is now, and Mr. Mackenzie had to buy a team of horses and Red River cart at St. Paul's, in the State of Minnesota, to travel a distance of nearly 500 miles to the new province. He remained in the province about a year, and at last was so thoroughly satisfied with the richness of the soil, its capability to produce heavy grain crops with very little expense, and the great future that awaited the country, that he finally determined to return to Ontario, sell off his land, and migrate with his whole family to the new land of his adoption, and he informed me (what I could well believe) that he never since had reason to regret the decision he then arrived at. At that time, in the year 1868, there were comparatively few settlers in Manitoba, and Mr. Mackenzie had the length and breadth of the land to choose from, and from what I was able to see of his different possessions, he had certainly displayed great judgment in fixing on most desirable sites, where the land was dry and good, with plenty of timber, and last, though far from least, on the borders of running streams. Mr. Mackenzie at present owns about 18,000 acres of first-class land in various parts of the province and territory. He resides on the Burnside Farm, containing 2,400 acres, and his sons (four of whom I had the pleasure of becoming acquainted with, and who are all very enterprising and intelligent young men) are in possession of his other farms. Mr. Mackenzie, during my stay at Burnside, took me over his farm, showed me his stock, and readily gave me all the information I wished. I was certainly surprised at the wonderful fertility of the soil, which is a rich black loam, averaging about 18 inches of surface soil, on friable clay subsoil, 5 and 6 feet in depth, beneath which is a thin layer of sand, lying on a stiff clay. The land is quite dry, and is well watered by a fine stream which flows through it. Of course every one cannot have the same advantage with respect to running waters, but he informed me that a plentiful supply could always be obtained in that part of the country by digging wells to a depth of 16 or 17 feet. I went over a large field of 180 acres on

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which had been grown this year a heavy crop of wheat and barley, this season's crop was the ninth in succession without any manure; indeed it appeared to me that it would not require any for many years to come, and that its fertility could be renewed at any time by bringing up an inch or so of new soil. On a portion of this field where some store stock had been getting straw, the previous winter, the crop had been much too heavy and gone down. It was quite a sight, and would gladden the heart of any farmer, to have seen the various stackyards on the farm, taking into account the comparatively limited quantity of land at present broken up. Mr. Mackenzie, when turning over the virgin soil in the early summer, merely pares the surface, he then backsots the furrow after harvest, ploughing about a depth of three inches, turning over a very broad furrow varying from 12 to 16 inches in width, and so far he has not yet exceeded a depth of four inches on any of his land. He considers the fertility of his land is practically inexhaustible, as in his opinion the friable clay underneath the surface soil, after a little exposure to the action of the atmosphere will be as fertile as that above it. With respect to the yield of his crop, he favoured me with his average for the seasons of 1877 and 1878, and his estimate for the present year, these were as follow:—Wheat crop, 1877, averaged 41 bushels; 1878, 36 bushels; this year he expects it to be close on 40 bushels per acre. The variety grown is called Fife wheat, which has a hard, flinty, plumb kernel, reddish in colour. The average weight is from 60 to 62 lbs., but has grown it as high as 64 lbs. per bushel. His estimate of the oat crop for this year is from 75 to 80 bushels per acre, weighing from 34 to 36 lbs.; last year he had a yield of 88 bushels from two bushels of seed sown on an acre; has grown potato oats of 42 lbs. and upwards, but considers he is better paid by the extra yield from the black Tartarian. His barley this year he expects will be from 40 to 45 bushels, of from 50 to 52 lbs.; the variety sown is 6-rowed. He drills his seed in as follows:— $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 bushels wheat, 2 bushels of oats, and 2 of barley per acre. The wheat is sown from 15th April to 12th May, oats up to 20th May, and barley from 24th May to 8th and 10th June. Reaping generally takes place in August. The Manitoba wheat is much prized by millers in the United States for its superior quality, and brings the highest price in the market. Mr. M., at the time of my visit, expected to receive from 2s. 9d. to 3s. per bushel for his wheat, delivered at the Portage; for oats from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d., and for his barley from 1s. 10d. to 2s. The latter crop is at present mostly used for horse feeding. The freight on wheat per steamer to Winnipeg is now $3\frac{1}{2}$ d., and thence to Montreal 1s. $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., in all 1s. 5d.; but in the course of a short time, when the Canada Pacific reaches this district, the cost of transport to Montreal, *via* Thunder Bay, will not exceed 1s. per bushel, all expenses included. Mr. Mackenzie also grows excellent root crops, his swede turnips averaging from 30 to 35 tons, and potatoes, without any care in cultivation, sometimes even not being moulded up, will yield between 300 and 400 bushels of 60 lbs., and sell from 1s. to 2s. per bushel. Onions, where cultivated, are also very prolific, yielding as much as 300 bushels per acre, and sell from 3s. to 4s. per bushel, according to the season of the year when sold. Mangold also grows heavy crops, but I did not see any on the ground. The butter produced in the district is of excellent quality, but very little cheese has yet been made, and what I saw was only of very middling quality; so that any of our first-class cheese makers going to the Far West shortly, will have a capital opportunity of distinguishing themselves, and figuring highly in the prize lists at the provincial as well as at the local shows. Mr. M. told me that both cattle and sheep thrive well, keep healthy throughout the extremes of temperature, and that no disease is yet known in the Province. With regard to labour, he has never had any difficulty hitherto in securing it, and does not anticipate any, at least in the immediate future, as many of the new settlers on first entering the country, find it to their advantage in gaining experience, to hire themselves out for the first year. Meantime labour can be had for \$40 per annum with board, or for the summer season at about £5 per month, and Indian labour at the rate of 2s. per day. Mr. Mackenzie meantime lets a portion of his land on the following terms: he provides his tenant with one-half of the seed sown, and receives in return one-third of the yield of grain, no rent being charged for the ground used

for pasturage or green cropping. The land all around the Portage, and which I may here state I considered as a whole the best of the Province which I visited, is all well settled, but can be bought from 30s. to 50s. per acre, partly housed and snake fenced; a wooden dwelling-house of fair dimensions can be built at a cost of from £50 to £60, exclusive of the expense of hauling the wood. After spending a couple of days at Burnside, I started with a team of horses and buggy for Prairie City and Rapid City, lying on the Little Saskatchewan, about 180 miles west of Winnipeg, under the guidance of a very respectable farmer, a native of the Province, who was well acquainted with the country through which we had to travel. Thanks to Mr. Norquay, who made the arrangements for my journey, we were well provided with stores and also a tent for camping out, and as the weather continued as a whole very good until our return to Portage La Prairie, the tent life, which was quite a new experience to me, was very enjoyable. I was very fortunate, too, in being accompanied for the greater part of the journey by Lieut. Col. Higginbotham, ex-M.P., for Guelph, who owns a considerable tract of land in Palestine, and Mr. Coulthard, also a native of Ontario. These gentlemen proved themselves to be most agreeable companions, and I will long look back with pleasure to the pleasant days in travelling over the prairie, and cheerful evenings by our camp fire, which I passed in their society. The Colonel was well provided with guns and ammunition, and we were enabled to provide ourselves with a variety of game, which proved a welcome addition to our regular fare whilst on the prairie. After leaving Burnside, the land for a considerable distance was of a similar character to that I have already described; afterwards it got more swampy and where dry, was of a lightish sandy nature, until we approached within a few miles of Gladstone, the capital of Palestine, when the soil again got heavier. Gladstone, at present only a small town, is situated on rising ground on the banks of the White Mud River, and the country surrounding it is well covered with poplar and grey willows, but there is little or no heavy timber. About a couple of miles past Gladstone we entered upon the North-West Territory; the land for a short distance was a sandy loam, and then we drove through a low and swampy country for many miles, on which there were no settlers, and which indeed is unfitted for settlement until drained. At the further side of this extensive marsh we came to a large poplar wood or plantation, on emerging from which we entered on the Beautiful Plain on the western side of which flows the White Mud River, at this place a clear, rapid running stream. The Beautiful Plain is a level ridge of land rising above the surrounding country many miles in length, and varying in breadth from a quarter to a half mile, and the view to be obtained from it is very extensive and grand. Here we spent some time at another of Mr. Mackenzie's farms, the management of which is carried on by Mr. Adam Mackenzie, his eldest son. This farm extends to 1,700 acres, but only 300 are at present under crop. At one end of the farm there is a valuable meadow, which in spring is covered with the overflow from the river, and afterwards yields heavy crops of hay. The whole farm is dry, and I considered the soil on the portion of the land which I examined to be the richest I have ever seen. The crops have been very heavy this year, and were expected to yield similarly to those already reported as grown on the Burnside farm, but I may here remark that these yields must not be taken as the average of the whole country. Meantime they are considerably higher, and must be accounted for by their generally superior management and the excellent quality of their lands. Mr. Adam, like his father, is fond of stock, and had a large herd of well-bred cattle on the farms, which I was fortunate enough to see. On remarking to this gentleman that he was a long way from a market, he informed me that he had at present no difficulty in disposing of his stock or crop at remunerative prices to passing settlers, and by the time the country is well filled up the new railway at present in formation will have opened the province to the markets of the world. Mr. Mackenzie has another large grazing farm well watered about twelve miles north of the Beautiful Plain, from 800 acres of which he could cut as much hay as would winter well 2,000 head of cattle. On resuming our journey from the Beautiful Plain the land for some distance was of fair quality, afterwards got light and sandy on the level land, but improved considerably

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when we came to the Rolling Prairie and over the Riding Mountains. This district is well watered by the Stony Creek River, and large numbers of small ponds or lakes, and seemed to me to be well adapted for mixed husbandry. At present the country there is only thinly settled, and you would scarcely see more than one farmhouse in a day's journey. We passed over the south-east end of the Riding Mountains, which was covered with good sized poplars, unless where burned through by prairie fires. On arriving at Prairie City I was somewhat surprised at its size, as meantime it would not make a respectable clachan in Scotland, and does not at present contain a score of inhabitants. The site, however, is well chosen on the banks of the Little Saskatchewan. It is surrounded by high land, and may some day become a place of importance. The country in the neighbourhood of Prairie City abounds with game, prairie chickens, snipe, plover, &c. The lakelets are crowded with wild duck, and the ardent sportsman may occasionally get a shot at a bear or wolf. Wild strawberries, raspberries, currants, and cranberries grow plentifully in this district. The land in the immediate neighbourhood of the Little Saskatchewan is of a light, sandy, and gravelly nature and would not stand much cropping, but at a distance of a mile from the river, on its eastern side, the land is very rolling, and much heavier, with a fair depth of black loam for surface soil. This district is thickly covered in many places with scrub, and is dotted here and there with lakelets, some of which in size and appearance reminded me much of the pond at Castle-Kennedy, although the most of them were considerably larger. Many of them are impregnated with alkali to such an extent that they cannot be used for drinking or cooking purposes; in others the water is quite good in the early part of the year, but becomes rotten further on in the season. Good water, however, I was informed can generally be got at a depth of five or six feet from the surface. I have already said that I thought this district to be well adapted for mixed husbandry; indeed, I considered it about the most suitable for stock farming of any that I have seen in the North-West, although on the whole the soil was nothing like so rich, in my opinion, as that from Poplar Point to Burnside in the vicinity of the Portage. Arrow or spear grass grows in this country, and frequently enters the bodies of sheep and kills them, but it is dangerous in this way only at certain seasons of the year, and disappears as soon as the land is brought under cultivation. I visited several farms on the journey from Prairie to Rapid City, which had been lately settled on. At one of these farms about ten miles distant from Rapid City I examined the soil in one of the fields where several teams were at work, and found it to be black loam to the depth of about twelve inches, on a clay subsoil. The crop of this year appeared to have been a very bulky one, but having been late sown the grain was very light. I was informed that this land was only taken up the previous season, the tenant having obtained 160 acres as a homestead for £2 as fees, and pre-empted another 160 acres for which he had to pay about 4s. per acre during the first three years of his occupancy. On nearing Rapid City I came to more newly-settled farms, on one of which part of the crop, which had also been late sown, was still outstanding in the field. The crop had also been a heavy one, so far as the straw was concerned, but on examining the grain I was again disappointed with the quality, as it would not have made respectable drawings with us. I was, however, given to understand this was frequently the case with first crops, especially if too late sown. One of the farmers through whose lands I passed was busy thrashing out his grain in the old primitive style with the flail, and on the next farm in a field of beautifully coloured oats in stock a team of oxen was already busy at work turning over the soil for a succeeding crop. On reaching the rising ground at the end of the Saskatchewan Valley we looked back over a very pretty landscape; but to the west, on the other side of Rapid City, we saw an immense expanse of prairie, as far indeed as the eye could reach, burnt black with a recent prairie fire, the farmhouses that had been saved looking very dreary in the midst of the blackened plain. I learned afterwards that this fire had burnt a district 30 miles in length by from 10 to 12 in width, causing considerable loss through the destruction of farm buildings and stacks of hay. I found Rapid City to be somewhat larger than its rival farther up stream, as it can

already boast of some twenty inhabited houses, and several more were in course of erection. There were also some goods stores in the place, and altogether it had a bustling go-a-head look about it, as much as to say that it would be a place of importance some day should the railway pass that way, as I have reason to believe it is now likely to do, and it is certainly wonderful how quickly large cities spring up in a new country, as witness Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, which seven or eight years ago had only a population of 400, and has now from 8,000 to 10,000 inhabitants, with beautiful villas in all directions, and as extensive stores as you will find in many of the older and larger towns of the Dominion. At Rapid City I had a letter of introduction to Dr. McIntosh, who has lately started a saw-mill there, and is now doing a large and profitable business. Meantime he has to bring his large timber down the winding Saskatchewan a distance of nearly three hundred miles. Finding it impossible to spare the time to go farther West, I was indebted to the doctor for the following information about the land in that direction. The land between the city and the Assiniboine, which lies to the southward, 25 miles distant, is a nice loam with clay subsoil on top of gravel. The land is all quite dry; plenty of water can always be had, but wood is scarce. Direct west to Oak River, 18 miles distant, the soil is of a similar nature, but there is more timber, some of it oak, and the country is being rapidly settled. At the Shoal Lake, a settlement 40 miles distant, the soil is all of a similar nature to that already described and much of the same character at Fort Ellis, and the Touchwood Hills still farther away, and at Edmonton, 850 miles distant, the land is undulating, and the soil of the very best description. When at Rapid City, I was much surprised and much pleased to meet with Mr. Lockhart, recently from Liverpool, a gentleman related to Messrs. Lockhart of Kirkcolum, who had finished his education at Glenluce, and was well acquainted with all the places and many of the old inhabitants of the district. He had bought a considerable tract of land bordering on the Saskatchewan, and felt very sanguine of success. On leaving Rapid City, on our return journey, we took the south trail, which enabled me to see quite a new tract of country. At first the land was very rolling prairie, with a good strong soil; afterwards we got on to the level prairie and entered on the Big Plain, where you could scarcely see a tree or elevation as far as the eye could reach. About 25 miles or so from Rapid City I came to another of Mr. Mackenzie's farms, and was hospitably received and entertained by his two sons, who were at that time residing there, and busy at work with five teams, three of which were horses, one oxen, and the other mules. This farm contains 4,000 acres of land and was entered on last year; the crops this season had been good considering that sowing was not commenced until the 26th May; of course much too late to allow the wheat crop time to mature properly. I examined the oats and barley, and found them to be of fair quality. 50 acres of this farm were broken up last year; this season they expect to have 220 acres turned over. Their second ploughing is from three to four inches deep, and from 12 to 16 in width. The work, to my eye, was somewhat rough, and would not altogether satisfy our prize ploughmen in the Rhins, but, notwithstanding, the prolific soil always yields bounteous crops; consequently more regard is had to the quantity of the work done rather than to the quality of the ploughing, &c. The Messrs. Mackenzie told me that each team was at that time daily turning over upwards of two acres of ground. The soil of this farm averages about 12 inches of surface soil, and is a sandy loam on a clay sub soil. I was given to understand that the water supply was pretty good, but there was no timber meantime growing on the farm. After leaving the Messrs. Mackenzie our course was continued through the Big Plain for many miles, until we arrived at the Sand Hills, near the eastern boundary of the Territory. This large extensive plain is very level, and, as I have already stated, is quite destitute of timber, a want I fear that will be much felt there, as well as in many other parts of the North-West for some time, until the country becomes more settled on, when settlers will, no doubt, plant a certain portion of their own lands. On examining the soil in various places on the Big Plain, I found it all to be a sandy loam, in some places of fair depth, in others rather light,

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and wherever there was anything approaching a ridge the soil was gravelly. The prairie grass, too, was much finer and shorter than I found it on the north trail, or in the other districts I visited either in the North West or in Manitoba. The plain is watered by Boggy Creek, a clear stream of water, and by several small lakes. The land is all quite dry and requires no drainage, but will not be able to stand anything like the cropping of other parts of the country I visited, without resorting to the manure heap. The Sand Hills, through which we passed after leaving the Big Plain, are some miles in width, and extend as far as the Assiniboine, fully twenty miles away. It was mostly very useless land, and in some places entirely destitute of vegetation. A few scraggy oaks and poplars were here and there, also some pine trees which helped to beautify the landscape. The district is well watered by the Pine Creek, on the borders of which in some places, good sites might be found for grist and saw mills, in both of which there appeared to be a great want in most of the districts which I visited in the North-West. On emerging from the Sand Hills we entered on a scrubby plain which appeared to be good soil, and a little farther on, the land was lower lying and the soil deeper and richer, and this continued to be the character of the country until we again struck the main trail a few miles from Burnside, my starting point, except that at some places the land was somewhat swampy. This district is still thinly populated, but the most of the land bordering on the trail has already been bought up, and will shortly be brought under cultivation. As already mentioned, my short visit to the North-West Territory was very enjoyable, the daily drive from morning until sundown, over the prairie in the fine air and moderately warm sunny days of the Indian summer season, was delightful as well as exhilarating, and although anxious to get on with my journey as quickly as possible, I experienced a feeling akin to regret when I found it drawing to a close, but I became quite reconciled to my lot, and thankful indeed that I got so far on my return trip, when on the day before our arrival at Burnside, the weather changed, and the district through which we were passing was visited by a severe thunderstorm, accompanied by a heavy fall of rain, which soon converted the previous good trail into an almost impassable quagmire, making me wonder what the track would become like in the rainy season, as very little progress, indeed I may say none has yet been made, either in Manitoba or the North-West in the matter of road making, and this certainly is one of the present great drawbacks to new settlers, and will be somewhat difficult to overcome, as there are very few beds of gravel to be found anywhere along the few hundred miles over which I passed. During the thunderstorm we took shelter at the farm house of Mr. Cook, where we were most hospitably received, and when there our host informed me that he had taken up his land about eighteen months previously. He liked the country very well, and although previous to the time of settling in Manitoba he had no knowledge of farming, yet he was getting on first-rate, as the land did not require very particular management, and he had no fear of his ultimate success. Early the following afternoon we reached Burnside, and shortly afterwards again started for the Portage, where I was so fortunate as to meet Mr. Walker, the Attorney-General of the Province of Manitoba, who was on his way to Winnipeg, and kindly gave me a seat in his buggy to that rising city; on our way down we met a great many covered waggons and Red River carts filled with emigrants and their stores on their way to the Far West. Indeed, on my journey eastward, from Rapid City, I felt greatly surprised at meeting day after day, long trains of waggons and carts going west, many of the emigrants being newly out from the Old Country, as England is generally designated in the Dominion. At Winnipeg I met with several of the Delegates, who had preceded me to Canada, and who had just returned to the city from visiting another part of the province. They were all much pleased with what they had seen, and Mr. Biggar, the Delegate from the Stewartry of Kirkcubright, son of Mr. Biggar, of Chapelton, a gentleman well known in this county, was kind enough to favour me with the following notes on the district through which he passed. [Mr. Cowan then read Mr. Biggar's description of the Pembina district and the great Dalrymple Farm in Dakota.] Messrs. Logan, from Berwickshire, and Peat, Cumberland, were also very kind in giving me every information that I desired.

During our short stay at Winnipeg we were very courteously treated by every one with whom we came in contact, and were honoured by an invitation to attend a banquet given by one of the political parties in the Province to Messrs. Mackenzie Bowell and Aikins, members of the Dominion Government, who were at that time visiting Manitoba. The banquet was a success. Many eloquent speeches were delivered and our healths were proposed and enthusiastically received. Our stay at the Capital was not, however, taken up altogether with banqueting, and we were much indebted to Messrs. Gerrie, Ashdown, and Ross, for driving us to a number of farms in the vicinity of Winnipeg. The first named gentleman, besides being a merchant and a landowner, is also a farmer on a large scale; he at present owns about 43,000 acres of land in the Province, of which, however, he only farms 4000 acres lying at a few miles distance from the city; he was kind enough to drive us out to and over the farm, and gave us every information about its management, cost of working, &c. The soil is a good deep loam on a clay subsoil, the land dry and well watered by a creek passing through it. He grows wheat, principally of the Fife variety, and black Tartarian oats; he estimates his yield of the former this season at fully 30 bushels per acre, and had been offered 3s. per bushel delivered at Winnipeg. He also has had no difficulty so far in getting a sufficiency of labour, has paid as high as £48 per annum, with board for a good man. His expenses of management per acre were as follow:—The first breaking of the land costs 12s., and second ploughing in autumn 8s., and can get it done by contract for the above sums; seed, harrowing, harvesting, thrashing, 20s., which in addition to the first cost of the land, say 20s. per acre, amounts in all to £3 per acre. So that any one who will take the trouble of calculating the value of the first crop grown on the land as given above, will see that for at least the portion of the farm brought under crop, the owner of the land has been fully paid both capital and interest for his outlay during the first year. Mr. Gerrie, who is a good specimen of an intelligent, shrewd, canny Scotchman, informed me that he is always prepared to dispose of some of his extensive property, that early this summer he had sold 240 acres not far from his own holding at £1 per acre; and that good land within easy distance of Winnipeg could at present be bought for that sum, whilst low lying swampy land, capable, however, of drainage, could be bought as low as 8s. per acre. On our return to town we passed through some very swampy lands, from which large quantities of hay can be cut in the dry season. Before leaving Winnipeg we were also indebted to the Mayor (Mr. Logan) and Mr. Ross for a pleasant drive to the Springs on the Gravel Ridge at Birds Hill, about 11 miles from the city. From the highest point of the Ridge we obtained a splendid view of the surrounding country, in different parts of which several prairie fires were then raging: the atmosphere was so clear that we could see quite distinctly a portion of Winnipeg in the distance. During our drive along the Red River to the Springs we passed through the well-known Kildonan settlement, one of the oldest in the province, and which was settled on as far back as 1812 by a colony of Scotchmen taken out by the late Earl of Selkirk. The soil in this district, bordering on the Red River, is a loamy clay of great depth and very fertile. We spent a short time on the farm of Mr. McBeth, and walked over a field belonging to him which I was informed had been continuously under crop for 24 years, except during three years when the province was visited by grasshoppers, during which time it was allowed to have a rest. The crop this season had of course been gathered long before the period of my visit, but the strong and thick stubbles showed that it had been a good one; and I was told that it would average at least 28 or 30 bushels of wheat per acre. This land had never been manured; indeed the tenant did not consider that it yet required any stimulant, although he proposed laying on a little manure shortly as an experiment. I saw many large dung heaps in this neighbourhood, some of which were said to be the accumulation of the last 50 years, and in many instances, to get quit of the manure, the farmer casts it on to the ice on the Red River during the winter months, and allows it to be carried away by the river when the ice gets broken up in the spring. Before leaving Mr. McBeth's farm I secured a small portion of the soil of the field which had been so long under crop, and brought it home with me, and if

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any gentleman present is desirous of seeing it I will have much pleasure in showing it, as well as a few samples of grain, &c., which I also brought home with me from the Far West, at the conclusion of my address. For these samples of grain I was indebted to Mr. Harrison, who at a present farms extensively within a comparatively short distance of Winnipeg. This gentleman, on account of ill health, proposes selling off his farm, of which he gave me full particulars. On our return journey to Ontario from Manitoba we were greatly indebted to the managers of the different railways over which we passed through the American States, for their courtesy and kindness in giving us free passes over their lines. These railways, viz., the Michigan Central, the Chicago, Milwaukee, and St. Paul's; and St. Paul's, Minneapolis, and Minnesota are well managed railways—at least so far as their roads and commodious carriages are concerned—and the scenery along the route is sometimes very grand.

On returning to the Province of Ontario, we first visited the town of Stratford, in the immediate neighbourhood of which are several large cheese factories. I was fortunate enough to have a letter of introduction to Mr. Ballantyne, M.P.P., who resides in Stratford, and who received me in the most kindly manner. Mr. Ballantyne, a highly intelligent gentleman of active business habits, is a great enthusiast in the manufacture of cheese, and has perhaps done more than any other man in Canada to perfect the system of factory cheesemaking. He owns one or two factories, and is also an extensive buyer of cheese throughout the province. We were privileged to see through the Black Creek Factory, which is situated in a fine, well-watered, grazing country, well suited for dairy purposes, about eight miles from Stratford. This factory, which gathers in its supply of milk from about 1,000 cows, was one of the very first established in Canada in 1864. It belongs to Mr. Ballantyne, but is conducted on the co-operative principle, Mr. Ballantyne charging the farmers a certain sum per gallon for hauling the milk and making the cheese. Mr. Ballantyne fully explained to me the whole process of factory cheese-making, of which he is a thorough master. The season begins in Canada at 1st May and closes on 1st November; the busiest time is in the month of June, when the cows are in full milk. During this month 26,000 lbs. of milk was sent to the factory this season, and the make of cheese per day ran from 2,600 to 2,700 lbs. Mr. Ballantyne informed us that in the early part of the year between the fodder and the grass he found the greatest difficulty in making cheese of good quality; this applied also to certain portions of the months of July and August, when the weather became extremely hot. Mr. B., however, has now managed to overcome in great measure the difficulties of making a really good article during the hot season, when the water is not very good, and the milk in some instances becomes tainted before it leaves the udder of the cow, and I tasted several cheese made at this factory from impure or tainted milk that were quite free from any impurity in either smell or taste. To attain this end, the whey is drawn off as soon as possible, even to the loss of some curd, and the temperature of the curd well kept up, the curd is also left a longer time than on ordinary occasions exposed to the action of the atmosphere, and less salt is used than when the milk is in good order. Mr. Ballantyne proposes to give a full account of his system of cheesemaking at a convention to be held in Chicago in February next, and as he promised to send me a few copies of his address for circulation among those of my friends and neighbours who are interested in this great industry, I will not meantime enter into any particulars of his system of management, and will only further remark that in the large, well-ventilated, and commodious cheese-room at Black Creek, I was somewhat surprised to find such uniformly high-class cheese, quite equal, if not superior to the finest makes in the Rhine of Galloway. The cheese were mostly uncolored, and would average about 60 lbs. in weight, and were very uniform in size as well as in quality. At the time of my visit the Kane had been disposed of up to the 1st August. They had gone to the London (England) market, where cheese from the Black Creek factory command the highest prices. On making inquiries about the future prospects of the cheese trade, Mr. Ballantyne assured me that they were much brighter than they had been during the previous two years, that the price of cheese was certain to keep up during the remainder of this season and for

some time to come, as, owing to the severe losses sustained through the unremunerative prices of the last two years, a great many factories had been closed down both in the United States and in the Dominion, large numbers of the cows from which these factories had been supplied had consequently been fattened and sold off, and that many of the farmers were now turning their attention to the raising and fattening of cattle for the British market, and that in his opinion the deficiency in the make of cheese in America next year, comparing it with the previous one, would be as much as 25 per cent. We afterwards visited another large factory at Strathaven, and were privileged to see through it. It belongs to a joint stock company, and was put up this summer, and consequently has all the latest improvements; it also is situated in a fine grazing country and very convenient to a railway station. They had about 1,000 cheese on hand when we were there, all of which had been sold at 12½ cents or fully 6d. per lb. This, taking into account the expense of freight to England, commissions, &c., was at that time a long price, and they would require to realise from 65s. to 66s. per cwt. in the English market to leave any profit to the purchaser. This factory was managed in quite a similar manner to the one we inspected at Black Creek. From Stratford we (Mr. Logan, delegate from Berwickshire, with whom I had travelled ever since leaving Chicago) proceeded to Toronto, where we were again joined by Messrs. Maxwell, Biggar, and Peat. In passing I may remark that Toronto is a handsome, thriving city, containing about 80,000 inhabitants. We stayed there a couple of days, and enjoyed the hospitality of several of its most influential citizens, to whom we had got introduced, and from whom we received information that proved very valuable to us during the remainder of our tour through Ontario. At Toronto our small party of delegates again got broken up, Messrs. Logan and Peat going their several ways, whilst Messrs. Biggar, Maxwell, and myself kept together, and I was fortunate enough to have the pleasure of the society of these two gentlemen, who proved themselves most agreeable and intelligent companions, during the remainder of my visit to Canada. On leaving Toronto, we took the cars for Guelph, where we were met by Captain McCrae, a gentleman originally from the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright, who kindly took us in hand, and was so good as to drive us during our stay in his district to a great many farms in the neighbourhood; amongst others, to the Model Farm a few miles from the city, and the farms of Messrs McCrae, senr., Stone, and Hobson. At the Model Farm we were introduced to the masters, with whom and the students (81 in number) we afterwards dined. We were greatly impressed with the many advantages to be derived by a residence at this well-managed establishment, both in the lecture halls, &c., and outside in the management of the land, by the rising generation of young farmers, and have little doubt it will do much good, and become very popular amongst the agriculturists of Canada, for whose benefit primarily it has been established. The charge for board and lodging is very moderate, the average for each student amounting only to from £10 to £12 per annum. Lectures are daily given by competent professors to the students, the latter afterwards assisting in the work on the farm. The large and commodious residence and farm offices are situated on rising ground in the centre of the farm, which consists of 550 acres of various qualities of soil ranging from good to inferior. The most of it, however, being a clayey loam, resting on a sandy and gravelly subsoil. The farm is well watered and fenced. Mr. Brown, the enterprising manager, drove us over the lands, and we saw evidences everywhere of good and careful management. The white crops this season had been very good, and the turnip crop, which were being stored at the time of our visit, were of excellent quality, and would average about 22 tons per imperial acre. We were shown several flocks of sheep, Cotswolds, Oxford Downs, and Leicesters, some of them excellent specimens of the various breeds. Great attention has also been paid to cattle, several of the bulls being superior animals of first-class pedigree. We afterwards visited Mr. Hobson's farm. This gentleman, like most Canadian farmers, enjoys the pleasure of farming his own broad acres; his land extends to 300 acres, 240 of which are under cultivation, the remainder being timber, yearly increasing in value. Mr. Hobson, an excellent judge of all kinds of stock, showed us his herd of shorthorns, some of

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which were very fine animals, and all of them of good pedigree. Mr. Hobson also feeds about 400 hoggets annually, generally disposing of them about Christmas. He informed us that the working expenses of his farm amounted altogether to two dollars per acre yearly. At Mr. F. W. Stone's farm we also saw some good shorthorns, but were unfortunate in not meeting with this gentleman, who, we were told, had done much good to his district in improving its breed of cattle. At M. M'Crae's, who is an excellent specimen of an enterprising successful Galloway farmer, we saw perhaps the largest head of Galloway cattle at present in the Dominion—they were of pretty fine quality. Mr. M'Crae owns a good farm, and the management was first-class. Indeed, we were much pleased with what we saw of the farming throughout the district, which we inspected in the vicinity of Guelph. The soil, generally speaking, is a strong clayey loam; the land is well farmed; considerable taste is displayed in the management of the farms; the buildings are good, and an air of comfort and well-to-do-ness is to be noticed among the farming community generally. Before leaving Guelph, we were greatly indebted to Captain M'Crae for taking us over a couple of farms that were then for sale. They were situated within eight miles of Guelph, and within three-and-a-half miles of a railway station. I will here remark that during our visit to Canada, we saw as well as heard of many farms that were in the market for sale, but as it is impossible that I can take notice of them all in this report, I have confined myself to a description of those I first saw, as I believe it may be interesting to a general audience, but to any one who may think of emigrating shortly to Canada, and who may wish for further particulars about farms for sale, it will afford me great pleasure to give every information in my power. But to proceed, Mannerbank, the first farm we visited, and situated as already described, contained 255 acres, 200 acres of which had been brought under cultivation, the remainder under wood. Soil a clayey loam of considerable depth, lying on a hilly gravel ridge running through the farm. The fields were well laid off, fairly fenced and well watered. The dwelling house was a substantial stone building containing fourteen rooms, and the farm offices, which were mostly of wood, were in fair order. This farm is at present rented to an enterprising tenant, whose lease expires next year, at £120. The price wanted is 14,000 dollars or about £3,200—to, say, £12 10s. per acre. The adjoining farm, belonging to the same proprietor, is also for sale; it contains 250 acres, of which 150 are under tillage, 85 acres meadow land, and 15 acres under timber. The soil is of a similar character to the above, and it is equally well watered, the dwelling house, however, is not so good, but the farm offices were better, having good pig and sheep houses attached. The price wanted for this farm was also 14,000 dollars. This land is likewise rented meantime to a good tenant. Both farms are being well managed, and are easy of cultivation. The taxes at present payable, amount on each farm to about £12 10s. per annum, and are principally for educational and municipal purposes. In addition to the above, the tenants, as elsewhere throughout Ontario, have to provide so many days' work of a man and team of horses annually, or an equivalent in money for the maintenance of roads. We also saw another farm, within a very short distance of Guelph, which is at present for sale. It was all under cultivation, was well farmed and in good order; the price wanted for it was somewhat higher than for those previously mentioned, owing to its convenience to the city and railway station. The opinion we formed of these farms was that they would be worth at least 30s. per acre in this country. Our time being limited we were unable to visit the country northwards from Guelph to Lake Huron, a distance of 90 miles, but were informed that the soil, if anything, was better than what we had seen, and that it was an excellent farming country. From Guelph we proceeded to Galt, where we visited a large farm of 550 acres, owned by a namesake of my own. Mr. Cowan being from home, we did not meet with him, but his sons kindly showed us his large herds of well-bred shorthorn cattle and Leicester sheep. When at Galt I called on Mr. John Adair, who has relatives in this district, and who owns a large farm of 130 acres, within a couple of miles of the town. He was kind enough to give me some information about his management and the yield of his crop this season. These were as follow:—The first year he takes a crop of wheat after lea; second season, potatoes

and turnips, and the third year, sows down with barley or oats, but few of the latter he informed me are grown in his district. His crop this year was an average one—wheat, 20 bushels of 61 lbs.; barley, 30 bushels of 48 lbs.; and about 40 bushels oats per acre. The land in the immediate neighborhood of Galt was of a light, sandy, and gravelly nature, much inferior in my opinion to the district about Guelph, but was given to understand that it was much better a little further back. Mr. Adair also informed me that plenty of land could be rented at from 2½ to 3 dollars, or from 10s. to 12s. per acre, and could be bought at about 60 dollars, or £12 per acre. From Galt we proceeded to Brantford, and at once drove out a distance of four miles through a most beautiful country to the celebrated Bow Park farm, where we received a most hearty welcome from Messrs. Clay and Hope, the managers, to whom we had letters of introduction from the Hon. George Brown, who is well known not only in the Dominion but also throughout Great Britain and the United States as a gentleman who has done a good work for the Dominion in gathering together a famous herd of pure bred shorthorns. Mr. Hope, to whom I had been introduced some years ago in this very town by my friend Mr. M'William, Craighmore, has great credit in the management of the farm, and specially of the stock department, and is allowed to be one of the very best judges of shorthorns, and our own favourites, the Clydesdales, on the continent of America. Mr. Clay, jun., well known throughout Scotland, is also quite an enthusiast in both classes of stock. Both these gentlemen accompanied us in our inspection of the stock at Bow Park, and it was a very great treat to have explained to us the particular merits of the several high-class and valuable animals brought under our notice, many of the herd, (numbering in all 340 animals) having cost as much as 2,500 guineas. We were also privileged to see the famous bull Grand Duke, walked out for our inspection, and also one or two famous cows, all well known in shorthorn circles, and the stock from which, being scattered far and wide over the American continent, must undoubtedly rapidly improve the native breeds. Bow Park, beautifully situated on a bend of the Grand River, extends to nearly 1,000 acres, the greater portion of which is a clayey loam with more or less admixture of sand. No particular rotation of cropping is observed, about 50 acres of mangold and turnip is grown annually, 200 acres Indian corn to cut green for stock, 150 acres rye, besides considerable breadths of wheat and barley. About 30 men are kept constantly in employment. The management of the stock appeared to be perfect, and the outside department seemed to be carefully as well as economically conducted. From Bow Park we drove through Brantford to Paris, on our way to which we visited the extensive farm of the Hon. Mr. Christie, which contains about 540 acres of very fair land. The soil is a lightish sandy loam, which, with good management and manuring, would yield generous crops of all kinds. It is a well watered farm, the fields are all laid off from the public road, which runs through the centre of the farm, and are of considerable extent, running up to about 60 acres. On one of the largest was the very best sole of grass we came across whilst in Ontario, indeed, on the whole, although we saw better land in many places, we considered this farm one of the most desirable that we saw in the whole province. We were also unfortunate here in not finding Mr. Christie at home, but his son kindly escorted us over the farm. From Mr. Christie's to Paris, a distance of a few miles, our drive was through the plains of Paris, a very beautiful and well watered district. At Paris we took the train to Woodstock, where we were met by Mr. Dunlop, a gentleman originally from Ayrshire. Mr. Dunlop drove us to his residence, a distance of six miles from the town, on the way to which we passed through a good tract of country. Mr. Dunlop only farms a small portion of his land, and has the remainder let to a tenant at a rate of 12s. per acre. From Mr. Dunlop's we visited one or two well-managed farms in the neighbourhood, the owners of which were very intelligent men, and appeared to be both prosperous and happy. During our visit to the neighbourhood of Woodstock the first of the season's snow fell, and although it was by no means a heavy covering, yet it was sufficient to prevent us carrying out our intention of visiting many other portions of the Province, which we were desirous of seeing. In the course of a few days, however, I visited the great

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fruit-growing district of Grimsby and St. Catharines, the last-named town being not far distant from the world-renowned Falls of Niagara, which I need scarcely inform you I also went to see, and the sight of which, had I seen nothing more during my visit to America, would have amply repaid me for my journey. At Grimsby I had the pleasure of meeting two very old friends in the persons of the Messrs. Hewetson, well known to many people in this county as brothers of the present tenant of Balfertson, near Newton-Stewart. These gentlemen, with whom I spent two pleasant days, have been many years resident in Canada, have been very successful, and although they have still a warm side to their native country, prefer living where they are to returning to the land of their birth; and I may here notice that I found this feeling very general amongst all classes of people with whom I came in contact, which of itself says a good deal for the Dominion as a place to live in. The country around Grimsby is very beautiful, lying below high lands covered with fine timber, the land sloping gently down to Lake Ontario. Nearly the whole district is devoted to the growing of peaches, apples, grapes, and many other varieties of fruits. It is well sheltered from frosty winds, and the soil, which is a sandy loam of a red colour, peculiar to that part of the country, is from two to three feet in depth, and the subsoil is sand, resting on the red sandstone. This soil combined with the climate it enjoys, tends to make the country in the vicinity of Grimsby peculiarly well adapted for the growing of fruit, the cultivation of which is yearly extending, and is very profitable. It is possible that a description of one or two of the extensive orchards which I visited may not be particularly interesting to many of my audience, still as the growing of fruit has already become a large industry in many parts of the Dominion, it is only right that I should notice it, although but briefly in my report. Mr. Hewetson first drove me through a beautiful country to the residence of Mr. Wolverton, who owns a large orchard of 18 acres, situated about a couple of miles from Grimsby. Mr. Wolverton has about five acres planted with apple trees, of which there are about 70 to the acre; and five acres in peaches, with from 140 to 150 trees per acre. The latter were about 16 years old, and this year produced 1500 bushels of this luscious fruit, which he sold for 2 dollars, or over 8s. per bushel, yielding him the handsome return of £120 per acre. We afterwards visited Mr. Kitchen, whose orchard extends to 60 acres. This gentleman informed me that his orchard contained 3000 apple trees, 500 peach, cherry, pear, and plum trees, and 1000 grape vines. He sold last year 2000 barrels of apples at 2 dollars per barrel, his average yearly sale of fruit and wines amounting to 8000 dollars, or between £1600 and £1700. We also visited the farm of Mr. Pettit, which contains 150 acres of very good land. Mr. Pettit has also a portion of his land devoted to fruit cultivation, but the greater part of it is in grass and under crop. I was here shown a herd of Durhams of good pedigree (the Prince's blood). Some of the animals, especially the year olds, were very promising, and for a young bull of good colour and shape Mr. Pettit had refused a long price. Mr. Pettit grows a considerable quantity of Indian corn, of which he had a good crop this season. He informed me that the average yield of this crop in his neighbourhood would be 40 bushels weighing 60 lbs., and was value for 60 cents or 2s. 6d. per bushel. As I have not hitherto taken notice of this cereal, I may here state that it is sown generally in drills about 3 feet apart with quarter bushel of seed per acre, from the middle of May to the 10th of June. When wanted for cutting green, it is not sown until the 1st July, and yields as much as five tons of excellent food for cattle; in winter it is cut into chaff, and mixed with bran and Indian meal or other feeding stuff. Mr. Hewetson, himself, has also a very promising young orchard of peaches, which will commence bearing next season. As already noticed, we were unable to visit several other important farming districts in Ontario, and I was indebted to my friend, Mr. James Hewetson, for the following information with respect to the counties of Huron and Bruce, in the N. W. of the Provinces. As Mr. Hewetson has been many years resident in that part of the country, and at one time farmed extensively himself, every reliance may be given to his statements. In County Bruce the soil is a clayey loam on a clay and gravel subsoil; the surface soil will average about two feet in depth; little drainage is required; the land is undulating

and well watered. Mr. H. considered it one of the best wheat-growing districts in Canada, and the land was well adapted for growing green crops. Good crops of wheat, oats, and peas had been gathered in this year; the yield of fall wheat this season over the county would average 30 bushels per acre. A good many cattle and sheep are raised, the latter especially thrive remarkably well, and when paid attention to are very profitable. This county was settled about 25 years ago, and is, on the whole, well farmed. It has several large shipping ports on Lake Huron, and the Great Western railway passes through the centre of it. The farms average about 100 acres, and can be bought from £7 to £10 per acre. Good clay land similar to Baldoon could be had at £6 per acre. Not including houses, however. County Huron was somewhat of a similar character to Bruce, and was all very good farming land. In the neighbourhood of Clinton there was a splendid farming country, superior he thought to the land I had seen in the vicinity of Guelph, and enjoyed a better climate. Good farm servants could be had from £30 to £32 per annum with board, and the taxes amounted to from £5 to £6 per 100 acres. With regard to the prices of cattle, horses, &c., they could meantime be bought at the following sums:—Cows from £5 to £10; two-year-old cattle from £5 to £7; sheep from 15s. to £2; and horses £16 to £40, prices varying, of course, according to quality. With respect to the profits to be derived from farming in Ontario, accounts varied very much ranging from five to ten per cent, on the capital invested; my own opinion being that the latter sum might readily be realised by any one who was thoroughly acquainted with his business as a farmer and was a good judge of stock. After finishing our tour through Ontario, my friends and I determined to spend a few days in the States.

At Boston we saw a fine lot of cattle awaiting shipment for Liverpool; we inspected the accommodation prepared for them on board the steamer, which, however, we did not consider very first-class. We were informed that the cattle are often sick for the first day or two on the passage, but with favourable weather they generally keep up their condition, and in some cases even improve. From Boston we proceeded to St. John's, New Brunswick, in the neighbourhood of which we spent a couple of days. We regretted very much that we had only a few days to spend in the Maritime Provinces, and during our too brief stay in these interesting provinces, we were only able to visit a very few places. At St. John's we were introduced to Mr. Livingstone, the Canadian Government Agent, from whom we received much kindness, and a good deal of useful information. The land in the neighbourhood of the town seemed to be pretty well farmed, the soil was of a loamy nature mixed up with a granite sand. About 100 miles from St. John's the land lying north of Fredericton and away by Woodstock is a good farming country; this district has good railway accommodations, and the River St. John which flows through it, is navigable for a considerable distance by flat steamers of a large tonnage. Cleared farms in this district can be bought from £8 to £12, but land equally good, still uncleared, can be had at from 6s. to 10s. per acre. At Sackville, another portion of the province we visited, lying on the borders of Nova Scotia, we saw some very fertile land. On the Sackville Marsh, which is 10 miles long by 4 in width, the soil is a good loam on a blue clay subsoil; large crops of hay are annually taken from this marsh or meadow, and during the time of our visit we saw many thousands of ricks—many of them containing 80 stones of hay—still outstanding, although a good portion had been secured in large wooden sheds. On examining the hay, we found that it was coarse and strong where grown on the natural meadows. But the sown grasses were much finer, and the hay of better quality. When in this district we were much indebted to Mr. Wood, Mr. Black, M.P.P., and other influential gentlemen belonging to the city, for their kindness and courtesy. At Mr. Wood's farm, which we inspected, we saw a herd of 60 cattle, some of which were fairly well-bred animals. He had 22 large cattle tied up, and being prepared for the English market, and a few had that day been sold and sent off. The price at which Mr. Wood had sold was 4½ cents., or say 2½d. per lb., live weight. Two of these cattle, under three years of age, weighed 2,970 lbs.,

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and would, consequently, be value for £12 13s. each at home, which, with the cost of transport, &c., to Liverpool, amounting to £6 per head, would make them about £19 in Liverpool. Mr. Wood's farm is partly upland and partly marsh very suitable for stock purposes. On the marsh he raises crops of hay, averaging from three to three-and-a-half tons per acre, and the uplands are well adapted for growing green crops. His turnip crop, however, did not appear to have been a heavy one this year. Land in the vicinity of Sackville sells as follows:—Marsh land from £10 to £24, and hard land from £6 to £8 per acre. During our flying visit through the province of Nova Scotia we passed through the Annapolis Valley, which is of considerable length, and in some places several miles in width. There are several good marshes bordering on the Annapolis River. These marshes are protected by high banks and produce good crops of excellent hay averaging about three tons per acre. We also passed through the Grand Pré Marsh, which is situated in the neighborhood of Woolfville. The Grand Pré is not so large as the Sackville Marsh, but is very productive, and is called the garden of Nova Scotia. These fertile marsh lands contain the best land in the two Provinces, and are very valuable. They are enclosed by dykes, and whenever it is found necessary to enrich the soil, exhausted, it may be, by continuous cropping, the sluice gates are opened and the tide is allowed to overflow the meadows, and leave a rich deposit of alluvial matter to the depth of one or more inches on the surface. During our run through the maritime provinces we spent a short time at Halifax, and whilst there were much indebted to Messrs. Rogers, fishery inspector of the Maritime Provinces, and Clay, Government agent, for their courtesy and readiness to impart information.

The Province of Nova Scotia contains about 11,000,000 acres, two-elevenths of which is covered by water, four-elevenths barren rocky land, and the remainder suitable for tillage. Only a small proportion of it, however, has as yet been brought under cultivation. The south-west portion of the Province being near the Gulf Stream has a moister and warmer climate than the other districts, and sheep can be pastured out the whole winter. In the neighbourhood of Windsor we saw some excellent land, which produces good crops of wheat, barley, and corn, as well as all kinds of green crop. The land was fairly timbered, and few of the farms were altogether cleared. Land could be bought there from 30s. to 50s. per acre, partly cleared. Nova Scotia is particularly rich in iron and coal, and several of its mines are at present being profitably wrought. This Province has the great advantage of having ports on its seaboard open during the whole of winter; and in conjunction with its neighbour Province, New Brunswick, should consequently be in a better position than the more northern Provinces of the Dominion to raise stock profitably for shipment to English ports. The winters are similar to those experienced in the other Provinces, but, whenever spring sets in, vegetation is very rapid. Ploughing is resumed in April. The crops are generally sown in May, and reaped in August. Cultivation of fruit for export is becoming quite an industry in some districts, and the apples especially are of excellent flavour. The fish crop is at present the most important industry in the Maritime Provinces, and will likely continue to be so until their internal resources are more fully developed. We were informed that the average yearly yield to Nova Scotia from fish alone, amounts to no less than 6,000,000 dollars. After leaving the Maritime Provinces we proceeded direct to the Eastern Townships of Quebec, a railway journey of fully 700 miles from Halifax. On our arrival at Compton we went at once to Hillhurst, the residence of the Hon. Mr. Cochrane, the well-known and successful breeder of shorthorns, &c. Here we were most courteously received and entertained by Mr. Cochrane, who showed us through his valuable herd, all of which were of excellent pedigree, and some of them of great value and well known to shorthorn experts. I saw also a good many cattle being prepared for the English markets; they were receiving a liberal supply of hay and roots all chopped up, mixed with meal, and would be good animals by the spring, when they are generally sold off. Last year Mr. Cochrane sold his fat cattle (96 in number) to a home dealer at 5½ cents or about 2½d. per lb. They had been kept on the farm for a period of 11 months, and paid 50 dollars or at the rate of about £1 per

month for keep. We also saw his flock of ewes, hoggetts and tup lambs. They were principally Cotswolds of good quality. At the time of our visit, the 20th of November, the ewes were still on the pasture fields, but where to be housed immediately. Mr. Cochrane informed us that he sells his tup lambs as high as 25 dollars or £5 per head. We did not think so much of his work horses, but his harness horses were very good, one of his mares being superior to anything of the kind we had seen in the Dominion. His pigs of the Berkshire breed were also very excellent, in fact the whole establishment and system of management was of a high order and quite equal to the best managed farms in this country. The farm contains 1,000 acres, well fenced and laid off in large enclosures. Water is abundant, and the soil is well adapted for growing good white and green crops, the average of the turnip crop this year being over 23 tons per acre. After leaving Mr. Cochrane we visited Sherbrooke, a rising town of from 13,000 to 15,000 inhabitants, and beautifully situated on the St. Francis River. Here we were fortunate in meeting Mr. Lindsay, a large farmer in the district who drove us into the country for some distance and gave us every information desired. We also met with Mr. Pope, son of the Hon. Mr. Pope, Minister of Agriculture. This gentleman farms in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, and feeds-off a good many cattle. He informed us that he frequently takes quarters from his neighbour farmers during winter for his store cattle, for which he pays about 5 dollars, or £1 per head. They are fed altogether on hay, which at that time was being sold for 6 dollars, or say 25s. per ton. Mr. Lindsay also deals largely in cattle and sheep. Last spring he sold his sheep at 4 cents., or 2d. per lb. live weight for shipment to the English market. To Mr. Lindsay I was indebted for the following information respecting the Eastern Townships. The farms vary in size from 100 to 500 and 600 acres, and could be bought at present from £3 to £5 per acre. At the latter price the land would be in a high state of cultivation, with very good farm buildings: for wild or uncleared land from 2s. 6d. to 12s. 6d. per acre, according to the location. The average yield of crops this season were as under:—22 bushels wheat, 45 bushels barley, 50 bushels oats, 26 bushels peas, 272 bushels potatoes, and from 800 to 1,000 bushels turnips. Wheat was selling at over 5s., barley at 2s. 3d. of 48 lb. bushel, and oats of 32 lb. at 18d. Milk cows were value for from £4 to £6, good shipping steers from 2d. to 2½d. per lb. live weight, sheep 2d. per lb. live weight, and lambs at 3 to 5 months old from 9s. to 12s. 6d. per head, butter from 11d. to 1s., and cheese 6d. per lb., pork 3½d. to 3¾d., turkeys 5d., and poultry 4d. per lb. Here, gentlemen, ends my report, and it now only remains for me to give you a summary of the impressions I formed of the great Dominion of Canada as a suitable field for the energies of the agricultural classes of this country; and in giving you my opinions I must again remind you that, owing to my short visit to Canada, as well as having been there only at a certain and probably the most favourable season of the year, so far as its climate is concerned, some of the statements I may make may be too high coloured, and be open to criticism. But I can at least assure you, they are given in good faith, that I have no personal interest to serve, as I do not at present own, and possibly never may own, a single acre of land in any part of the country, that during my tour through its various provinces no attempt to bias me in any way was made by Government officials, or by parties who might be otherwise interested, and that whilst every facility was given me to see all that I desired, I was left entirely to follow out my own programme. I feel, however, that considerable responsibility rests upon me in giving expression to the views I hold with respect not only to the present, but to the future of the great country I have just returned from visiting; and I purposely desire to speak guardedly, lest I may be accused of being too enthusiastic, and that at some future time, some of those present, or others who may read my report, and who thereby may be led to leave comfortable homes in their native land to try their fortunes on the other side of the Atlantic, not finding all they were led to expect, may blame me in consequence; for without doubt there are many people who will no more succeed there than in this country, and I would prefer that more attention should be bestowed on my report, in which I have endeavoured to give as much information as possible, with regard to the different districts I visited, in so far as their soils were concerned,

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their suitability for cropping or stock raising, the prices at which such could be bought, the cost of management, &c., rather than to my own opinions. First in order comes Manitoba and the North-West, in which I spent the first few weeks of my visit to Canada. This immense tract of country, the extent of which seems boundless, has only become known to the outer world during, I may say, the last decade of years, and it is a matter of wonder that the fertility of its soil, and its capabilities as a wheat-growing country, should so long have remained unknown, seeing that it has been in possession of the Hudson Bay Company for upwards of 200 years. At present this great country, which is supposed to be capable of sustaining a population of upwards of 80,000,000 of people, is, comparatively speaking, almost unoccupied, although emigration from the older Provinces of the Dominion, as well as from the American States and our own country, is yearly increasing, and now that the country is being opened up by the formation of the Canada Pacific Railway to the Rocky Mountains, and thence through British Columbia to the Pacific Ocean, as well as by other railways, there can be no doubt that the tide of emigration westwards will continue to go on in an increasing ratio year by year, and that in a very few years it will have a considerable population. During my short visit (and I was only able whilst there to travel over about 500 miles of its prairie lands, and my remarks, it must be borne in mind, are only strictly applicable to what I saw) I was very highly impressed with the fertility of the soil, some of it being without exception the richest I have ever seen, and I have little doubt it will continue for many years to produce excellent crops of grain without any manure, and with very little expense in cultivation; and I would say to any one blessed with health and strength, who is possessed of moderate means, and who is of sober and industrious habits, that in Manitoba or the North-West he would have no difficulty in realising a competency in a very short time, and in many cases, in a few years, a fortune. For example, 160 acres of land is now being offered by the Canadian Government free on the condition of settlement, and 160 acres more at a price that would not amount to one year's rental of very moderate land in this country. Of taxation, meantime, there is almost none, and although churches and schools have in a great measure yet to be built, it is only a question of time, for all the settlers with whom I came in contact are as much alive to the advantages of education as we are at home, and no differences in religious belief as yet trouble the inhabitants, for I found Episcopalian, Methodists, and Presbyterian all working harmoniously together. The North-West Territory, I may mention, will in a special manner commend itself to our temperance friends, for no liquor is permitted to be sold in its vast bounds, and heavy fines are liable to be imposed on any one in whose possession it is found without having a permit from the Governor. No doubt in this new country, as in every other, there are many disadvantages to be encountered and difficulties to be overcome, and people going there must be prepared, if I may so express it, to rough it for a few years. Its climate goes to extremes, the summers being hot and the winters severe, the thermometer, I was informed, occasionally marking about 70 degrees of frost. The snowfall, however, is not so excessive as in some parts of the Dominion, seldom exceeding a depth of from eighteen inches to two feet; but people who have been resident in the North-West for many years assured me that, owing to the dryness of the air, with a little care, they never suffered from the severe cold. In summer, I was given to understand that, in common with all hot climates, life for a time was made rather miserable to the new settlers by the mosquitoes, sand flies, and other pests; but these troubles are not considered of much account by the pioneers of civilisation. The scarcity of timber on these vast prairies is also to be noticed. This is a want that will undoubtedly be felt by many settlers for some time, but in the course of a very few years, will be overcome, when the country becomes more settled and the land brought under cultivation, which will prevent the ravages of prairie fires, which are at present unchecked, and keeps down the growth of timber except on the borders of the streams and rivers. The roads, too, as I have already noticed, are still in a state of nature, and become worse in the rainy season, and this is at present a difficulty with the new settler, but even now they are in a fair state for travelling over, and

for hauling purposes during about three-fourths of the year. As soon as railways are made through the country, they will tend to divert the heaviest of the traffic from the roads. Tramways are also likely to be found very suitable for the prairie country, and are sure to be brought into requisition at no distant day, and even the present roads can be greatly improved by the judicious use of brushwood and proper water tabling. With regard to water, I fear that this may prove to be one of the greatest disadvantages with which many of the settlers may be called to contend. In all the districts I visited my enquiries were specially directed to this subject, but from information I received, I am led to believe, that although in the summer months there was in some places more or less difficulty in getting a pure and sufficient supply, yet good water had always hitherto been obtained from wells sunk to a lesser or greater depth from the surface. I also made enquiries as to the ravages of grasshoppers, but although it was conceded that the Province had occasionally suffered severely from these pests, settlers did not anticipate much loss through them in the future, when the country was brought more under cultivation. I have now brought before you the good and the evil, and will only further remark, that in my opinion a very great future awaits Manitoba, and the Canadian North-West. Its boundless prairies will soon be brought under cultivation, and when opened up by railways, and also by water communication through the Hudson Bay direct to this country, it will become the granary of the world, and be able to supply the wants of many peoples with the staff of life, and at a price that will be a blessing to our struggling millions, but will bear hard on the occupiers of grain-growing lands in this country. With regard to the next part of the Dominion which I visited, viz: the Province of Ontario, I was also much pleased with what I saw of its agricultural resources. The greater part of the country through which I passed was very good farming soil. Several districts were perhaps as well farmed as our own country, but, as a rule, I did not consider the farming of a very high class. No regular rotation seemed to be observed, and the value of manure, as an aid to raising good crops, if understood, did not appear to be acted upon. Too much attention appeared to me to have been given in the past to raising cereals, and too little to the raising of stock. But farmers seemed now to be turning their attention more that way, and I have no doubt that when farming is pursued in a systematic manner, similar to that observed in this country, that a prosperous future awaits the agriculturists of Ontario. In my report I gave full details of the prices of land, stock, and working expenses, so I need not now allude to these matters. But to any one thinking of emigrating to Ontario, I may tell him, that with the exception of the climate, which, however, I was informed, is not so extreme, either with heat or cold, as in the North-West, he will have none of the difficulties to encounter in the districts I visited that he would have to face in Manitoba. Indeed I thought it very much like our own country with respect to its large and thriving towns and villages, and the appearance generally of its country districts. It has sufficient railway and water facilities through all its bounds. Its roads are excellent and in good order. Its educational system is, I think, better than our own—in fact, it enjoys all the advantages that we possess in this country. And now with respect to the Maritime Provinces and the Eastern Townships in Quebec Province, I do not feel myself to be in a position to say much. I had only a hurried run through both, and the season was too far advanced to see much of them. The former, in my opinion, has the great advantage of being near shipping ports that are open throughout the year, and the places I visited seemed to be well adapted for raising and fattening stock. I felt greatly pleased with the little I saw of the Eastern Townships. The country greatly resembled many of the best districts in Galloway. The land was undulating, well watered and wooded, and the soil appeared to be good, and particularly well suited to grow first-rate green crops and excellent pasture. I thought too that land, considering its quality, was cheaper than in its neighbouring Provinces. And now with respect to these older Provinces of the Dominion. Whilst the mother country may in a few years look to the great North-West for abundant supplies of cheap grain; from them she will also receive

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yearly increasing quantities of excellent beef and mutton, &c., at moderate prices. And now to sum up briefly, to those who think of emigrating to Canada, I would say, that in my opinion the Dominion has the advantage of being nearer England than any of her other colonies, that to whichever of her Provinces they may go, they will meet with the kindest, most hospitable people on the face of the earth; they are also as loyal subjects as Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen has in any other part of her vast Dominions, they will go to a land of immense mineral as well as agricultural resources yet to be developed, a land that has a great future before it, and which I feel assured, will some day become one of the mightiest countries on the face of the earth. (Loud and continued cheering. Mr. Cowan was also repeatedly applauded during the delivery of his lengthy address.)

At the conclusion of the address, which was listened to with intense interest,

The Chairman said Mr. Cowan would be glad to answer any questions.

No questions were put, the audience evidently thinking that Mr. Cowan had given them all information that an intending emigrant could desire.

Mr. Rankin, of Airds, in moving a vote of thanks to Mr. Cowan for his able address, said he wished Mr. Cowan not merely to be thanked for the excellent and interesting address they had just listened to, but for the patriotic way in which he had acceded to the wish of the farmers in leaving home and his business at so short a notice to go to such a distant country for a long period of time without fee or reward. (Cheers.) The able report they had listened to proved the wisdom of their choice. (Loud applause.) It was not too much to say that there were few men in the kingdom who could make those observations and put them before the public in such a practicable manner as Mr. Cowan had done. (Cheers.) His information had been given in such a form as to be of the greatest use to those who intended to emigrate to Canada, and it was most satisfactory to find that country so highly recommended by a gentleman so competent as Mr. Cowan undoubtedly was. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Cowan's promptitude in making his report had added greatly to the obligations they were under to him. (Loud cheers.)

The vote of thanks having been carried most enthusiastically,

Mr. Cowan acknowledged the compliment, and said he thanked them most sincerely for their great kindness. He could assure them his visit to Canada had been a most enjoyable one, and that he would always look back with pleasure upon it. He could have given them much more information, but he knew that it would be wearisome to them, and, as he had already said, he would be happy to give them any information they desired at some future time. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. White proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the proceedings, which lasted two hours, terminated.

Mr. Cowan exhibited some wonderful specimens of Canadian potatoes and grain, which were inspected with much interest.

REPORT BY MR. R. W. GORDON, THE ANNANDALE DELEGATE.

A meeting of farmers was held in the Town Hall, Annan, January 9th, to hear the report of Mr. Robert W. Gordon, Comlongan Mains, Ruthwell, the Delegate appointed by the Annandale farmers to proceed to Canada and report upon that country as a field for emigration for agriculturists. There was a very large attendance, the hall being uncomfortably crowded, and some were unable to gain admission. Among those who accompanied Mr. Gordon were Mr. Johnstone Douglas, of Lockerbie; Provost Nicholson; the Rev. Mr. Gillespie, of Mouswald; Mr. Marshall, Howes; Mr. W. J. P. Beattie, Newbie; Rev. W. P. Johnstone, Kirtle; Mr. Brown, Hardgrave; Mr. Crawford, Northfield; ex-Provost Batty, Mr. C. McLean; Mr. James Bell, seedsman, Damfries, &c., &c.

On the motion of Mr. Marshall, Howes, Provost Nicholson was called to the chair.

The Chairman, in introducing Mr. Gordon, said—I am sure it affords us all very much pleasure to welcome Mr. Gordon home again from his arduous, but I have no doubt interesting journey. (Applause.) I have been highly pleased to hear the universally expressed satisfaction at the appointment of the Delegate sent from this district, for every one seems to think we have made a very judicious choice. From what I know of Mr. Gordon's powers of observation and his general intelligence, I am sure he will give you a most interesting and, I have no doubt, a most instructive report of what he has seen and heard since we appointed him about three months ago. (Applause.) I will not detain you longer, but will call on Mr. Gordon.

Mr. Gordon, who was warmly received, and frequently applauded during the delivery of his report, then proceeded—I suppose I need not apologise for appearing here before you to-day, nor need I waste your time by explaining the circumstances under which I was appointed to visit Canada, but will at once proceed to give as faithful an account of the districts I visited in the three Provinces of Québec, Ontario, and Manitoba, which constitute a part of the great Dominion of Canada, as it was in my power to obtain. I shall conclude with a short summary of each Province as a field for emigration from this country, but shall do so with some diffidence, in consequence of the short time I was able to spend in each district. The season of the year selected was also greatly against my using my faculties of observation, as the corn and potato crops were gathered, and a considerable quantity marketed before I arrived.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

My party, on landing in Canadian territory at Point Lévis, Quebec, on September 21, proceeded as fast as an emigrant train would allow us to visit the Eastern Townships. These townships constitute part of the Province of Quebec, and occupy the south-eastern portion of it. They are bounded on the north by the river St. Lawrence, on the south and west by the United States, and on the east by what are called the Maritime Provinces. They lie between latitudes 45 deg. and 47 deg. north, which traverse also the south of France. The climate consequently in summer is similar to that experienced in the south of France; but the winter is a rigorous one, and is estimated to last a fortnight longer than in Ontario. Our visit to these Townships lasted only two days, but during that time we were shown a fair sample of the district. The surface of the country is undulating, and as a consequence the soil is very varying in quality, alternating from rich alluvial deposits to almost barren sand. The water supply is excellent, beautiful crystal springs catching the eye on all sides. The woods were at that time quite a feature in the landscape from the variety of their tints; and contain cedar, maple, hickory, elm, ash, spruce, &c.,—all trees which indicate, we were told, good farming land. Clover, timothy grass, roots, barley, and oats grow to perfection. Second cuts of clover are equal to crops in this district, roots are superior to our average crops, and grown without artificial manures. Land here will lie out in permanent pasture. Fruit is in great abundance and of splendid quality from apples to outdoor grapes. The inhabitants are for the most part composed of English, Scotch, Irish, and French—the French element being the strongest. The latter do not, as a rule, make good settlers; but are quiet, peaceable neighbours, very merry, and an advantage to our countrymen in this way—that they make capital labourers. Wages are pretty much the same as with us, men being procurable at about £50 a year without board, and relatively cheaper when board and lodgings are provided. Land is procurable at prices ranging from £2 to £10 per acre, according to the quality of the soil, the situation as regards markets and railway accommodation and the value of the buildings, fences, and other permanent improvements which have been executed. I may just remark here that the buildings, as a rule, are inferior, and that there is great room for improvement in the cultivation of the soil. The cattle are chiefly what are called native and are, one would fancy, to look at them, a cross between the Ayrshire and the old-fashioned Irish breeds. There are, however, several herds of shorthorns, and these are gradually improving the native

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breed; in fact the first cross makes a good marketable animal. Horses are light, active, clean-legged and very hardy, admirably adapted for the work required of them. The sheep are of the Leicester and Cotswold breeds generally, and are much too fat and heavy weights to suit the English markets. Farmers are beginning to find this out, and are enquiring for sires containing a larger proportion of lean flesh, such as the Shropshire, Hampshire or Southdown. Berkshire pigs are bred extensively, and seem to thrive as well as in their native country. Schools and churches there are but as yet not thickly planted; the roads also are for the most part in a primitive state. There is, however, no want of material for making them, and doubtless as the country gets more settled they will be improved. Railway communications are good.

THE VALLEY OF THE ST. LAWRENCE.

We next passed through the valley of the St. Lawrence, where, although we were informed the soil was 10 feet deep, the appearance of the country was wretched through utter disregard of the first principles of farming. The inhabitants are nearly wholly of French extraction, and lay out their farms, as they do also in the Eastern Townships, in long, narrow strips, sometimes in width only room enough for a house and stretching back a couple of miles. This system is adopted in consequence of their fondness for society, and for keeping their families, even when married, around them, which leads to the erection of their houses along the roads and in close proximity to each other.

ONTARIO.

We ran through the Province of Quebec and entered Ontario, the most important Province at present in the Dominion. It is bounded on the south by Lakes Erie and Ontario and the river St. Lawrence; on the west by Lake Huron and the great North-West territory; on the east by the Province of Quebec; and, like Quebec, has no limit northward till it reaches the North Pole. The 45th parallel, however, runs north of the bulk of the land at present settled. The surface of the parts we visited in this province is not so undulating as the Eastern Townships. The winter is shorter, and the snow often disappears, leaving the ground bare, a condition of things not desirable in so cold a climate. The summer, however, is warmer, and ripens Indian corn, tomatoes, &c., while grapes and peaches grow as if they were natives. One thing strikes the traveller very forcibly while passing through Ontario, and that is the almost total absence of anything resembling our Scotch burns, which leads him to fancy that there must be a great scarcity of water. This, however, is not the case, as on enquiry we found that good water off limestone rock can be had by sinking wells deep enough in all but very isolated cases, and this we found verified by the number of windmill and other pumps we saw as we drove through the country districts. As in the Eastern Townships, there are still forest lands to be broken up, and fields are here and there studded with the decaying stumps of primeval monarchs of the forest. Oak, elm, maple, cedar, tamarac, hickory, spruce, pine, and other timbers are to be found in different localities. The first place we halted at was Ottawa, and we were just in time for the Dominion Show, which is held by rotation in the principal cities. We found the show on the whole a creditable one, considering that the exhibits were all from a distance, as although Ottawa is the capital of Canada, it is situated in anything but a good farming district; in fact, it has no industry worth the name with the exception of the lumber trade, and that is indeed an extensive one. In cattle there were represented the shorthorn, Hereford, Devon, Galloway, Ayrshire, and native cross-breeds—in all of which classes, with the exception of the Galloways, there were some good animals. Sheep were not well represented. In horses, what we consider the correct stamp, was almost totally absent, the horses of the district being much lighter than ours, and are bred with a view to rapidity of motion rather than heavy draught. The feature of the show was

the trotting horses driven single and double in buggies round and round the enclosure, and doing their best pace. Roots, vegetables, and fruit were an extraordinary good show; for size, variety, and quality, I never saw them equalled in our country. Machinery and implements were excellent, and combined lightness, simplicity, durability, and great ingenuity, with cheapness. Harness also may be described in the same manner. The land around Ottawa is, as I before mentioned, very poor—being either very light, sandy soil or too rocky for good cultivation. It is selling at from 10s. to £10 per acre. There is a very extensive lime quarry about two miles out of town, and a hill of phosphate of lime about eight miles out, which is quarried and exported. From Ottawa, we journeyed to Toronto, doing most of the distance by night, and crossed Lake Ontario to visit the Falls of Niagara, which, although not strictly within our mission, have such world-wide reputation that it would have been a mistake to have passed them. And well were we rewarded. To stand and watch one hundred million tons of water, travelling at the rate of 26 miles an hour, falling 160 feet and rebounding from the rocks below, forming clouds of spray, is a sight never to be forgotten. Leaving Niagara, we returned to Toronto, passing through hopyards and magnificent orchards of peaches, apples, &c.,—the climate and soil being admirably adapted for the growth of these products. After spending one night in Toronto, we left for London to attend a local show, or fair as it is named in Canada. We found the exhibits much as at Ottawa, except the sheep, which were decidedly better. The soil, judging by the view we got of it from the railway carriage from Toronto to London, is rather stiff, except in the neighbourhood of Guelph, which is a good district and well farmed. Orchards abound; and young wheat when we were there, in the end of September, was from 6 inches to 1 foot high—much too luxuriant we thought. Cattle, sheep and pigs were turned into the fields to eat it down, as when snow falls it is smothered and rots. In London we were shown over a large brewery, fitted up with every modern appliance, even to the consumption of petroleum tar in the engines as fuel instead of coal or wood, which, we were told, saves 30 per cent, in the outlay. Canadian-grown hops are used, and barley costs from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per 48 lbs. From London we passed through Bothwell to Chatham, then along Lake Erie shore to Blenheim and Thamesville, and thence to Ingersoll. Soil of almost any quality can be got on this route, from forest lands at £2 to magnificent deep clay and sandy loams worth from £15 to £25 per acre. The Indian corn grows here luxuriantly, yielding from fifty to sixty bushels per acre. Fall or autumn wheat, clover for seed, and roots are the principal crops. The farmers are making experiments in growing sugar beet, which, if successful, will return them £40 per acre. They are promised by a company £1 per ton for the roots delivered at drying kilns erected from five to ten miles apart. The pulp when dried, is forwarded to the sugar factory; and as they estimate they can grow on this land forty to fifty tons per acre, the success of the experiment is looked for anxiously. Orchards are also a feature of this district, particularly along Lake Erie shore. Making Ingersoll and Woodstock our headquarters, we drove to Paris, Brantford, East Zorra, Norwich, Dereham, and Simcoe. This is a great dairy district, the cows being almost entirely of the native breed, although some have a dash of shorthorn in them. Well-managed cheese factories stud the district, which collect the milk night and morning with their own carts. They are own generally by a company of the farmers themselves, who put in a manager, and remunerate him either in cheese or a percentage on the year's sales in money. The expenses are deducted at balancing time, and each farmer gets an equivalent of money in proportion to the quantity of milk he supplied to the factory. In this way a much more uniform make for the whole district is secured, and consequently a higher price. One factory was making one ton per day, and another 15 cwt. Unfortunately some of the managers had sold their season's make of cheese to 3½d. per lb., a very unremunerative price, but before we left it had risen to 5½d. This will encourage dealers to give a good price for next season's make. Fruit is grown here also in abundance; the soil is very variable, and suited to all kinds of crops. We came across an Osage orange fence when near Lake Erie, which grows so close, so quickly, and is of such a

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prickly nature, that all further difficulty in the matter of permanent fencing seems to be at an end. The fencing question would have been a difficult one to solve in a few years, as wood is getting in some districts scarce and dear. There are no stonges, at least you can travel miles without seeing one; and our white thorn will not grow. When at Brantford we visited the celebrated Bow Park farm, where the largest herd of shorthorns in the world is kept, and saw a number of animals of great merit. The farm is kept entirely or nearly so for raising food for these cattle. I may mention here that when in the Eastern Townships we paid a visit to the Hon. M. H. Cochrane's farm, with whom your townsman, Mr. Simon Beattie, was so long connected. We saw a splendid farm of 1,200 acres in extent, highly cultivated, and grazing a herd of world-renowned shorthorns and a nice little flock of Shropshire sheep. We were introduced to a fine cow called Dairy-maid; sire, Knight of the Tyne, whose dam (Milkmaid) was bred by Mr. Marshall of the Howes, and exported, I believe, to Canada by Mr. Beattie. In this district (I now return to Brantford) it is the practice to sow both rye and Indian corn to be used as green fodder or made into hay. Indian corn yields 40 to 50 tons of green food, and when made into hay about 9 tons per acre. It is considered equal to turnips for feeding cattle. Timothy, orchard grass, and clover are the only grass seeds sown in the province. Permanent pasture is, I believe, unknown. Our next move was to Stratford, thence to Listowel, Harriston, Walkerton, Clinton, and Seaforth, where we took rail to Guelph. We saw the same variations in soil and crops as in other parts of the Province, but noticed that although the land was fully as good as we had seen it was not so well farmed, nor were the houses and buildings so good, and orchards were not so numerous. We were informed that it was a younger farming country, which would account in a great measure for these deficiencies. These remarks do not apply to the immediate neighbourhood of either Stratford or Guelph. The Agricultural College here is a grand institution, and says much for the enterprise of the Ontarians. It is a fine building, about a mile out of the town of Guelph, and situated on a rising ground about the centre of the farm. There is accommodation for 91 students, and at present it is quite full. The students practically execute the whole labour on the farm, and are instructed in the sciences applicable to agriculture and horticulture, the course of instruction lasting two years. The Government aids private parties in providing the funds, and in addition each student pays about £20 a year. He, however, is paid in return for his work, and it is calculated, if he is careful, that he should save £7 each year. Judge, then, of the value of an institution which teaches what will be all-important to future generations of farmers, and at the same time may be a source of present profit to the student. Our own country might well follow such an example. There is a staff of professors, headed by a principal, and instructors in the working and stock departments. The flock consists of 100 ewes, and their produce, of the Leicester, Southdown, and Hampshire Down breeds. The herd is composed of four or five animals each of the Shorthorn, Hereford, Polled Angus, Galloway, Ayrshire, and native breeds. The present result of careful comparison of these several breeds is in favour of the Hereford and Polled Angus. The farm is over 500 acres in extent, the soil being in some fields a sandy, and in others a clay loam, with a gravel subsoil. We were informed that their wheat crop averages 35 bushels. After leaving Guelph we again returned to Toronto, and from there visited St. Catharines, and passed Grimsby and the Welland Canal. Near St. Catharines we visited a manufactory of native wine: the vineyard which supplies the grapes is 50 acres in extent; the soil is a stiff clay of a reddish colour, which is considered the best class of soil for fruit growing. The climate here is remarkably mild; winter is shorter and not so severe as in other parts of Ontario. The Welland Canal passes St. Catharines. There is a new one in the course of construction, which is of a capacity to allow Atlantic steamboats to pass up through it, and thence to the great lakes. The neighbourhood of Grimsby is admitted to be the best fruit district in Canada.

THE INLAND SEAS OF NORTH AMERICA.

Leaving Toronto we took the train for Sarnia, *en route* via the Great Lakes for Manitoba. In the largest of these lakes it is boasted by the Canadians that they could give the whole of our Little Island a bath. And certainly if it could be ground into powder and shipped across the Atlantic I am not sure but that such would be possible. Lake Superior is the largest body of fresh water in the world; it is 360 miles long, has an average width of 85 miles, and an area of 32,000 square miles; its greatest depth is 800 feet, its height above the level of the Atlantic Ocean is only 600 feet, so you will understand that the bottom of the lake at its deepest place is 200 feet below the level of the ocean. The first point of interest we touched at was Sault Ste. Marie, opposite which the river which connects Lakes Superior and Huron is rendered unnavigable by rapids. There is a canal at present up which pass the Lake steamers, but in course of construction there is another canal sufficiently large to complete the connection here with the Atlantic in the same manner as the new Welland Canal does between Lake Erie and Ontario. There is also a talk of a company being formed for the construction of a railway from the Sault Ste. Marie to Lake Nipissing, which will connect with the Canadian Pacific Railway when constructed from Montreal to Winnipeg via Thunder Bay. We next spent a few hours on Prince Arthur's Landing, which is the rival port at present to Fort William, from whence will be shipped goods from the great North-West, and brought here by the Canadian Pacific Railway. On our voyage from here to Duluth, the terminus of the Lake route, we had the great pleasure of a visit to Silver Island, which lies at the foot of Thunder Cape, a basaltic cliff 1,350 feet high. The silver mine from which the island takes its name is worked by an American company having their headquarters in New York. The quartz, which is very rich in silver, is crushed on the mainland close by; the silver is then washed out of it and conveyed by steamer down the lakes to its destination in the States. One of the shafts is 700 feet deep, and the workings are carried on underneath the waters of the lake. An island which rises 910 feet above the lake near here has a small lake on its summit in which are fish of a different species from those which inhabit the surrounding lake.

MANITOBA.

After resting a few hours at Duluth, we continued our journey to Winnipeg by train via St. Vincent and Emerson. The province of Manitoba, of which Winnipeg is the capital, lies north of the 49th parallel, along which runs the boundary line dividing the United States from Canada. This line also traverses Belgium, Germany and Austria. It forms the centre of a circle which might be drawn round the continent of North America, and is thus described by Lord Dufferin in his well known eloquent language:—"From geographical positions and its peculiar characteristics Manitoba may be regarded as the keystone of that mighty arch of sister Provinces which spans the continent from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It was here that Canada emerging from her woods and forests first gazed upon her rolling prairies and unexplored North-West, and learned as by an unexpected revelation that her historical Territories of the Canadas; her eastern seaboard of New Brunswick, Labrador, and Nova Scotia; her Laurentian lakes and valleys, corn lands, and pastures, though themselves more extensive than half-a-dozen European kingdoms, were but the vestibules and anti-chambers to that till then undreamt of Dominion, whose illimitable dimensions alike confound the arithmetic of the surveyor and the verification of the explorer."

Such is the opinion expressed by the late Governor General, on the occasion of his visit to Winnipeg in 1877, of a country which until a few years ago was the hunting ground of the Indian and the pasture field of the buffalo. The traveller's first idea on gazing across the vast prairie lands is that it deserves the name applied to it, or rather to the whole North-West, by Lord Beaconsfield, when he called it "that illimitable wilderness." But upon a closer examination he sees that beneath that

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surface of dried grass or ashes, consequent from the frequent fires, there lies hidden a treasure in fertility of soil which when developed will sustain millions of the human race. All prairie lands are, you may say, almost level, and this Province forms no exception to the rule. There are, however, here and there bluffs or ridges, and also what is called rolling prairie, but which displays no more irregularity of surface than is to be found in many parts of England, where, before the era of drainage, the plough was used to ridge up the land. Along the river banks and up on the bluffs timber abounds, oak and poplar being the prevailing kinds, and amongst the brush-wood we noticed the raspberry, dogrose, and a thorn very much resembling the white thorn of England and Scotland. Of roads there are none, Indian, trader, and settler having as yet ignored them. The same absence of streamlets here, as I mentioned before in Ontario, is forced upon one's attention, but this want is aggravated by the circumstances that when found, which is done by sinking wells, the water in many cases is not palatable. Cattle, however, thrive well on it, and we were assured that if these wells were sunk deep enough, good water would be found. We came across one, however, where, although it had been sunk 90 feet, good water had not been secured. They had, however, struck rock, and were in hopes of succeeding at last. As this requires a considerable outlay of money, settlers would do well to locate where good water is known to be attainable at less cost. The climate varies from almost tropical heat to arctic cold, the thermometer marking occasionally 70 degrees of frost. Old settlers told us that though they occasionally got frost-bitten, the cold was not worse to bear than in Ontario in consequence of the stillness of the air and the extreme dryness of the atmosphere. Snow seldom falls to a depth of twenty inches. The grasshopper plague, although a serious one when it arrives, comes seldom; for, it is said, they have appeared only five times within the last 50 years. Mosquitoes, also, are a great annoyance, but disappear before improved cultivation. From Winnipeg we drove to Selkirk, Niverville, Otterburne, Cook's Creek, Moosesknowe, and Birds' Hill. These two last-mentioned places constitute part of a gravel ridge which commences about twelve miles from the city, and is the only place we came across from whence may be acquired material for road making. The soil is nearly all of the same formation, although in some places the variation in depth is very considerable; but as the ground was frozen we had less opportunity of testing this than we desired. We, however, never saw the subsoil turned up by the plough, and where there were water runs or holes dug we noticed as great a depth as four feet. We were told that it is found even nine. The subsoil in most parts is of deep clay, and of such a rich friable nature that we could fancy it would grow wheat without the assistance of the surface soil. The price of land varies, if bought from speculators, from 4s. to £2 10s. an acre; but settlers can get from the Government, under condition of residence and cultivation, 160 acres for nothing, and if they choose, can pay for 160 acres more at from 4s. to 10s. an acre, 4-10ths of the purchase money, together with interest on the latter at 6 per cent., being payable at the end of three years, the remainder being payable annually thereafter in six equal sums, with interest at above-mentioned rate on each unpaid instalment. This is called a preemption, and the buyer binds himself to commence to work this along with his first acquired 160 acres, which is called a homestead within three years. What is called railway lands can also be bought from the Government with no condition of residence or cultivation, at 4s. to 20s. per acre. The native cattle, which are much better than in the other Provinces (I do not speak of improved ones), seem to thrive well on the prairie grass in summer and on hay in the winter. They were invariably in good condition, and are fattened readily with the addition of a little grain. There are few sheep kept yet, as the wolves on the one hand and spear grass on the other play havoc with the flock. Spear grass we did not see, but were told that it penetrates the skin and kills the animal. When the land is all settled and cultivated, both of these enemies of the fleecy tribe will disappear; but I am of opinion that, as a rule, Manitoba is not a sheep-growing country, the land being too level and too soft. Horses are mostly imported from the States and Canada, and suffer from a debilitating fever until they have been some time in the

country. Some attribute this disease to the climate, some to the water, and others to the prairie hay; but as oxen thrive well, are kept more cheaply, do as much work in ploughing, and are not far behind in carting, why should they not take the place of horses until these are bred in the district? Wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes are the principal crops: and turnips, cabbages, &c., have grown well where planted. I may say here that the samples we saw at the Ottawa show, and also in our route through the country, prove beyond the possibility of a doubt that both quality and quantity of roots can be grown; that the country is thoroughly adapted for wheat growing; but that barley and oats, although the yield is good, ripen too fast, and are therefore badly filled, and consequently light. On leaving Winnipeg we turned our faces in a south-westerly direction, and drove through Morris and Nelsonville, across the Pombina river to Crystal City, and thence to Rock Lake, when we again changed our direction, and made for Emerson, passing Mountain City and a large Mennonite settlement. The Mennonites are, although of the German race, emigrants from Russia, and have two large reserves in the Province granted them by the Government of Canada, for which I believe they paid nothing, and also were granted immunity from the payment of taxes, and also from serving in the army. They are a quiet, peaceable, hard-working, frugal people, something after the nature of our Quakers, and are laying by money. The cities I have mentioned are only cities in name as yet, for although the adjacent land has been laid out by surveyors in town lots, two or three houses compose the present city. It is expected that a railway is to run in this direction, starting at Winnipeg, passing Rock Lake, and tapping the coal region on the Souris river. We were informed when in Winnipeg that a company had already been formed to carry out this scheme, and that coal would then be had in Winnipeg for four or five dollars—i.e., 16s. to 20s. per ton. When the great Saskatchewan coal fields are tapped also, it may be expected to be even cheaper than this. I will not weary you further with a description of our journey than to mention that on leaving Emerson we proceeded to New York, passing a short time in each of the following cities: Minneapolis, St. Paul's, Milwaukee, Chicago, Washington, Philadelphia, and Boston, all, as you know, cities of the United States.

SCHOOLS.

The school system in Canada is founded on this basis. All public schools are free and managed by School Trustees elected by ratepayers in each school district. The funds are raised by rating the inhabitants of these districts. In Manitoba a school rate will be long in being required, as the Government have set aside a large quantity of land to be sold solely for the purposes of education, so that education in the public schools there will, for many years, be absolutely free. In the other Provinces, in country districts, the rate is very light, and as the election of Trustees is periodical, and entirely in the hands of the people themselves, there is little likelihood of it becoming burdensome. In Ontario the number of public schools is very noticeable, and the teaching very efficient; in Quebec they are more widely scattered; while in Manitoba there are few as yet, although there is, as in the other Provinces, a perfect system of education in operation. All the principal cities in the Dominion have also numerous higher class schools, in which a capital education may be had, and at a less cost than at home. It may not be out of place to remark here that Canada, and especially the smaller cities in the Province of Ontario, is a good country to which people with families and limited incomes might emigrate. They would have the advantage of good and cheap schools, their cost of living would be much less, and they could invest their money to greater advantage than in this country. Seven to nine per cent., according to the ability of the lender, can be made with perfect security, and it is estimated that a family spending £300 a year at home can live as well there for £200. There is also a wider field in which to start young people in the world. Canada is a country in which no one says he cannot work, but where every one says, "To beg I am ashamed." Perhaps this is the reason there is not a poor-house in the Dominion.

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THANKS TO THE CANADIANS.

Our visit to Canada was rendered the more enjoyable on account of the kindness and courtesy we received from all ranks of society there. The Canadians are a frank, enlightened, high-spirited, and specially hospitable people, and vied with each other in their solicitude to do us a service. Our thanks are due in a very high degree to one and all of those with whom we came in contact. At the same time I would dispossess them of the idea which was expressed by one gentleman at a public meeting, at which I was present, that we on this side of the Atlantic are the cold inhospitable people he then pictured, but would remind them that although perhaps of a more reserved and less impulsive nature, our hearts are none the less warm, nor are our hands less ready to welcome the stranger who visits our shores.

THE PROVINCES COMPARED.

I now come to the important questions—Is Canada the place to emigrate to? and, if so, which of her Provinces is the most desirable? The first question I will answer in the affirmative, (1) because of its boundless extent of cheap and at the same time fertile lands; (2) because of its proximity to our own country, and therefore to the best market in the world! (3) because of the similarity of its people to ourselves; and (4) because of its loyal allegiance to the British Flag. The second I will leave you to decide for yourselves after pointing out shortly the advantages and disadvantages of each Province as I was able to discover them. The capital required varies of course according to the system adopted and the district chosen, and may be roughly estimated at from £3 to £30 an acre. This includes the first cost of the land. After that, of course, there is no rent to pay. Land, however, can be bought to be paid in a certain number of years, with interest on the unpaid portion. In this case less capital is required, but this leaves a yearly burden in the shape of interest, which virtually forms a rent for a limited time. The yield of wheat in Quebec and Ontario varies from 10 to 40 bushels per acre, but the average, I fear, can hardly be put down at more than 17 bushels of 60 lbs. weight. This low average is a result of the land having been so badly farmed in the past. The farmers, however, are now alive to the fact that they must turn their attention more to the rearing and feeding of live stock for exportation to the British markets than to the growing of wheat. The yield of barley may be reckoned at 35 bushels of 48 lbs., oats at 50 bushels of 32 lbs., and Indian corn, where it will grow, also at 50 bushels of 60 lbs. Wheat was making 5s., barley 2s. 4d., and oats 1s. 4d., per bushel. Fruit is also a valuable adjunct in these Provinces. Turnips and potatoes are similar to our own crops in ordinary years. Beef was selling retail at 5d. per lb.; mutton about the same figure; and the 4-lb. loaf at 4½d., to 5d.; cheese, when we landed, at 3½d., per lb., when we left, 6d. From all I could learn, a farm can be worked cheaper than in this country, for although wages are higher, fewer hands are required. Labour may be estimated, when all paid for, at 10s. to 15s. per acre. For every £100 invested in land, the total taxes payable do not exceed 15s. It will be understood that as nearly all farms are owned and occupied by the same parties, this tax is equivalent to both landlord's and tenant's taxes in this country. I may say that, as a rule, no artificial manure is used. The capital required for Manitoba need not be so highly estimated, as in no case can the sum required exceed £5 per acre; but, on the other hand, no man should go there from this country with a less capital than £500 to attempt to cultivate 160 acres. He can easily start and flourish with the half of this, provided all things go well, but there are contingencies, such as grasshoppers and severe weather, it would be well to provide for. Wheat may be safely estimated to yield, with reasonable cultivation, 30 bushels of 60 lbs., and oats 60 bushels of 32 lbs. The yield of barley I did not ascertain. Grain is not expected to require much outlet for some years, as the new settlers always require seed and food for themselves and animals until their own crops are matured. There is a demand also from railway contractors, and by the time these markets fail, communications will

be better. Wheat was worth 2s. 6d. to 3s. per bushel, and oats 1s. 8d., to 2s. Potatoes and turnips grow well, as I have stated previously, and cattle do well on prairie grass in summer and on hay in winter, which can be got as yet in any quantity off unsettled land in the neighbourhood. There is nothing to pay for it except the labour. The first breaking of the land out of prairie can be let by contract for 12s. an acre; the next and following years it can be ploughed for 8s. Harrowing is a mere bagatelle after the first year; and harvesting, owing to the dry climate and the level nature of the surface, is inexpensive. In Quebec (when I speak of this Province I mean the Eastern Townships) you have the advantage of being near the seaboard, consequently the freight to the European market is low. You require less capital than in Ontario, as land of the same quality is cheaper. The wages are lower. Water is in better supply naturally, and permanent pasture is found to answer. On the other hand, Ontario can furnish a greater choice of more valuable land; roads are better; schools more numerous; winter is shorter; and the people generally are more like ourselves. This arises from the absence in a great measure of a foreign element as compared with Quebec. Ague is still present in some parts of Ontario, while Quebec and Manitoba are free. Manitoba has a disadvantage as compared with both these Provinces in her distance from a market, in her sparse population, greater scarcity of schools and churches, roads and good water, and a longer and more severe winter. On the other hand she has a virgin soil of vastly superior quality, which is to be had at a comparatively low price, less labour is needed, although wages are higher (railroad men earn from 6s., to 8s., a day), and there are no taxes. Quebec and Manitoba, as settlement advances, will have better roads, and more churches and schools. A very good idea of the rate at which settlement in the latter Province is advancing is gathered from the fact that the post offices have been increased in little more than a year from 58 to 120; one land office last year, had located 900 settlers, and sold 400,000 acres of land. The communication between here and the old world will soon be vastly improved through the competition of the Thunder Bay route and the construction of new railway lines now in contemplation. A new route is also proposed, via the Nelson River and Hudson Bay, which will bring Winnipeg as near Liverpool as New York is at present. The grasshopper and mosquito plagues will moderate or disappear altogether as they have already done in older Provinces, and the prairie fire, which is the dread of the new settler, need do him no damage, except through his own extreme carelessness. Persons going out there, however, should be still robust and active, as of course at present it is a pioneer's life, while if they go to the older Provinces, when once there they can make themselves as comfortable as at home.

COMPETITION IN PRODUCE IN THE PAST AND WHAT WE MAY EXPECT IN THE FUTURE.

And now, before concluding, it may perhaps interest you to hear the increase in imports to the United Kingdom of various agricultural products for the past five years, and also to listen to a few arguments showing why they are likely still to increase. The following figures show the greater quantity of agricultural produce imported to this country from all foreign parts in 1877-8 than was brought in five years previously—that is, in 1873-4, the quantities being expressed in tons and round numbers:—

Wheat.....	550,000	Beef.....	23,000
Flour.....	75,000	Pork.....	650,000
Barley.....	275,000	Butter.....	26,000
Oats.....	60,000	Cheese.....	15,000

These figures do not include the live cattle, sheep, and pigs daily arriving at our ports. Nor do they give you an idea of the much greater increase I could have shown you had I calculated for ten years past instead of five. It is estimated that at the present time the population of the United Kingdom is little less than thirty-five mil-

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lions, while that of the North American continent is about fifty millions, yet these fifty millions occupy a country fifty times larger than would have to support, were there no importations, the thirty-five millions. Imagine, then, what these fifty millions of people can produce over their own wants, with hundreds of thousands of square miles of virgin soil to work upon, with railways made, or which can be made, through these districts at little cost, and with thousands of miles of navigable rivers and inland seas to oppose them. Look next at India; she too is coming to the front as a wheat-exporting country. In 1870 the export of wheat from the port of Calcutta was only 17,000 bushels, while in 1878 it reached the extraordinary number of 7,369,772 bushels. We have Australia in 1874 exporting 3,400,000 bushels of wheat, and in 1878 an aggregate of 5,000,000 bushels, of which nearly one-half reached these shores. And now she too threatens to send us live cattle and sheep. The estimated increased acreage of winter wheat sown this year over last in the United States alone is 12 per cent.; while in Canada there is also a very large acreage, and it was never known to look as well. Mr. J. W. Barclay, M.P., in speaking of America the other day in a contribution to the January number of the *Fortnightly Review*, says—"In the present agricultural crisis, I observe that hope is maintained in some quarters by the notion that the supply of agricultural produce from America will fall off; this hope is based on the expectation of an increase in the cost of transport, and of the inability of the American farmer, in the face of an increasing home demand, to grow wheat as cheaply as he has hitherto done. It seems to me that for some years to come, at all events, these expectations will prove delusive. In the Western States it cannot be doubted that wheat can be raised on the grand scale at a price with which the British farmer cannot compete, assuming that he continues to pay the present rents." And then he goes on to say, in reference to the freights, which are expected also by some to increase in the future—"From the improvements to be expected in steamers, and an increase of competition by the opening of new lines of communication by land and water, the reasonable prediction is that rates of carriage will be lower in the future than in the past. I cannot, therefore, bring myself to think that we have seen the last of American competition, or that the lowest point in depression has yet been reached." Mr. John Clay, one of the British Commissioners now travelling in America, similarly expressed himself the other day in Chicago when interviewed by a newspaper correspondent. And I am certain that no impartial traveller there could return without a similar impression. The inflation of prices of produce lately is believed by many well-informed men to be only temporary, and to be caused mainly by a large ring of speculators on the other side of the Atlantic preying upon the supposed needs of not a few of the countries of the European continent.

A WORD TO LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

And now (I am speaking to my brother agriculturists) in the face of this fierce competition, and with the alternative before you of emigration to a country where traffic in land was free and untrammelled, would it not be well for you to bestir yourselves and throw off the yoke that has hung about your necks in times past? Would it not be well for you, by emigration or otherwise, to rid yourselves of such unequal laws as hypothec and the like, and would it not be well for you, to acquire more security for your capital and more freedom of action than is accorded by the most of your leases, drawn up as they were by lawyer factors 50 years ago? On the other hand, would it not be well for landlords to relax somewhat these stringent clauses framed under conditions which no longer exist? Would it not be well for them to look more closely and personally into their own interests? Would it not be well for them (although there are some generous, and in the long run wise exceptions, who have already done so), to extend to the tenantry a helping hand, and thereby assist to remove a load which is threatening to cripple, if it does not destroy, the greatest industry of the kingdom? By failing to do so they may either banish from their native land a patient, industrious, and frugal tenantry, whom, when too late, they may wish to retain, or they may condemn them, if they stay, to a ruin from which it may take even a lifetime to recover.

CONCLUSION.

Then, gentlemen, if any of you can make up your minds to leave the shores of your native land to find a home on Canadian soil—if you can make up your minds to face the inconveniences and hardships I have endeavoured to portray—and if you come to the conclusion from these remarks of mine, and from information you have gathered or can gather from other sources, that you can better your position by going there, I may tell you that you will go to reside among a people in whose veins the blood of your own ancestors—a people strong in the hope that a great destiny awaits their country—a people peaceable and law-abiding—a people of like aspirations with yourselves in social and intellectual life, who will extend to you the right hand of fellowship with a vigour and an earnestness which will cause you almost to blush.

Mr. Brown, Hardgrave, said some weeks ago he had the pleasure of proposing that Mr. Gordon be sent to Canada as the delegate from Annandale. He did so knowing full well the qualifications Mr. Gordon possessed for discharging the duty, and he thought the able report to which they had just listened fully justified them in their choice. (Applause.) He would ask them to accord a hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Gordon for his excellent report. If the old country should ever be played out, as some seemed to think it would, there was a grand country across the water ready to receive them, and a country where, as Mr. Gordon had said, the poorhouse was not necessary. (Applause).

Ex-Provost Batty, in seconding the motion, said the report was a most exhaustive one, and showed that there was a wide field for farmers in Canada, where their condition in life would be greatly improved, and land could be had on much easier terms than in this country. (Applause).

The Chairman, in conveying the vote of thanks to Mr. Gordon, expressed the pleasure with which he had listened to his lucid and faithfully drawn account of the country he had visited. (Applause).

Mr. Gordon, in acknowledging the compliment, said his trip to Canada was a most enjoyable one, and if he had been able to give them any assistance in making up their minds on the question of emigration he was pleased, he had a great many more details in his note-book at home, which he did not think it necessary to trouble them with there, but he would be glad to communicate them to anyone desiring further information. (Applause).

Rev. Mr. Gillespie proposed a cordial vote of thanks to the Chairman, to whom they were greatly indebted for the public spirit he displayed and the active part he took in everything connected with Lower Annandale. (Applause).

The Chairman having acknowledged the compliment, the proceedings terminated, having lasted about an hour.

REPORT OF THE DELEGATES, MESSRS. ELLIOT, LOGAN AND SNOW, AT STOW.

An adjourned special meeting of the Gala Water Farmers' Club was held in the Town Hall, Stow, on the 19th December, to hear the report of Messrs. Walter Elliot (Hollybush), John Logan (Legerwood), and John Snow (Pirntaton), three of the farmers' delegates from Scotland appointed to go to Canada and report on the inducements which the Dominion offers to British farmers. The chair was occupied by Mr. Stewart, C. lielaw; and Mr. T. Gibson, Ferniehurst, acted as croupier. Among the others present were Mr. Riddell, Hundalee; Mr. Tweedie, Burnhouse Mains; Mr. Smail, Galashiels; Mr. Rae, Hawknest; Mr. Aitchison, Middletown; Mr. Smart, Bowshank; Mr. Forsyth, Whitelee; Mr. Bell, Cortleferry; Mr. Riddell, Corshope; Mr. Tillie, Hangingshaw; Mr. Gardiner, Cairntonbarns; Mr. Mercer, Stow Mill; Mr. Thomson, Millbank; Mr. Thorburn, Brockhouse; Mr. White, Stage Hall; Mr.

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Harper, Muirhouse; Mr. P. Harper, Muirhouse; Mr. Gibson, Haymount; Mr. Leith-head, Turnerdykes; Mr. Dunn, Laidlawstiel; Mr. Hall, Crosslee; Mr. White, Lugate; Mr. Campbell, V.S., Galashiels; Mr. Renwick, Hawkburn; Mr. Jamieson, Muttonhole; Mr. Logan, jun., Legerwood; Mr. Inglis, Brothershiels; Mr. Broomfield, Lauder; Mr. John Cairns (Secretary), &c., &c.

The Chairman, before calling on the delegates, said he was sure all those present would join with him in saying that the committee of management of that club deserved every praise for having called a special meeting to hear the report of the Canadian delegates—(applause). He would now call upon Mr. Elliot, who, he believed, would treat of the Province of Ontario, the Province of Quebec, and the Eastern Townships.

MR. ELLIOT'S REPORT.

Mr. Elliot said—Gentlemen, having been appointed by Mr. Dyke, Canadian Government Agent, Liverpool, to go to Canada and report upon the advantages which that country holds out to agriculturists, I shall endeavour in this paper to state my views thereon as clearly as possible. Sailing from Liverpool on the 11th September, in the good ship "Peruvian," we landed at Quebec on the 21st, having had a good passage. Thence we started by Grand Trunk Railway for Richmond and Sherbrooke, in the Eastern Townships, travelling through a poor country most of the way, and badly farmed as a rule. The population principally French.

September 22nd.—Started from Sherbrooke and drove 30 miles through the Counties of Compton and Stanstead. We were not very favourably impressed with the soil upon the whole, a great part of the country being badly farmed. Where well farmed, the crops were all good, turnips specially so. We visited the Hon. M. H. Cochrane's farm, near Compton, where we were most hospitably entertained. It extends to about 1,200 acres, upon which he raises magnificent crops of all kinds, and that entirely without artificial manures. He can house 400 cattle, besides breeding horses of various kinds. There are large piggeries, and also barns capable of holding all the crops. There are besides, a fine house, garden, and greenhouses, and large orchards, all of which with improvements cost him rather under 40 dollars per acre. We also inspected his far-famed herd of shorthorns (reared 1,100 feet above sea level), which certainly for numbers and general excellence could not easily be excelled. I may mention one two-year-old heifer for which he refused 5,000 guineas. He also keeps a flock of Shropshire Downs, sheep, in my opinion, very suitable for the country; the ram lambs of which he sells at six months old; and they realize from 30 to 40 dollars per head. Land can be bought in the district with ordinary buildings from 20 to 30 dollars per acre.

September 23rd.—Started from Sherbrooke at 12 midnight for Ottawa, where we arrived at 3 p.m., after a very tiresome journey. The country between Montreal and Ottawa poor and badly farmed. We inspected the Parliamentary and other public buildings beautifully situated on the banks of the Ottawa River.

September 24th.—Visited the Exhibition which, taken as a whole, was very good. The several cattle classes were well represented—the Shorthorns and Herefords especially so. The sheep classes as a rule were only middling, although there were many fine animals amongst them. Pigs were well represented, especially the Berkshire breeds. Horses as a class I did not think much of, although I have no doubt very suitable for the country; but appeared to me to be too light for heavy work. Roots, grains, and fruits of every description, too numerous to mention, could not be excelled in any country; while every other industry was well represented and very creditable to a young country.

September 25th and 26th.—Drove out into the country both days, and also visited exhibition. Did not think much of the country, as a rule, for farming. Started for Toronto at 10 p.m.

September 27th.—Arrived at Toronto, noon, passing through some very good country along the shores of the Lake Ontario. The crops, from the appearance of the stubble, had been good. Few turnips grown in the district; fine country for

fruit. We saw many large orchards as we passed along at the farm places. Good crops of second clover which were being cut for seed. Farmers all busy sowing wheat; and many fields well up. Land can be bought here for \$40 per acre. In the afternoon we sailed across the Lake to Niagara.

September 28th.—Visited the falls (a very grand sight), and all places of interest in the neighbourhood. This is a great fruit-growing district.

September 29th.—Left Niagara for Toronto, by way of Hamilton; passed through some fair, good country, and, for the most part, badly farmed; fruit and wheat being the principal crops, the pastures having a poor appearance. After leaving Hamilton, the farming improved. Coming along we saw a good number of well-bred cattle in the fields.

September 30th.—Set off for London by way of Grand Trunk Railway, which we reached at 1 p.m. Passed through a good country most of the way, fairly well farmed. Very little pasture land, and what was, looked poor and closely eaten. A good many fairly bred cattle along the route. Visited the Exhibition for a short time.

October 1st.—Visited Mr. Carling's, M.P., extensive breweries; a very interesting sight—petroleum being the only fuel used in the works. The barley and hops used are grown in the neighbourhood. Drove out to the waterworks, and returned by steamboat on the Thames. A very fine sail. Afterwards, visited the exhibition, where every class of stock was well represented; as also machinery, implements and manufactures of all kinds, together with the usual display of fruits, vegetables and roots. I was very favourably impressed with the tall and healthy appearance of the people here, especially the ladies; and there can be no better sign of a good country than the healthy appearance of its people.

October 2nd.—Left London by 5.40 a.m. train for Bothwell, from whence we drove to Dresden by way of Florence, through a middling country. The soil very unequal; in some parts light and sandy, while others again were strong clay; then sometimes would pass through good loamy soil, in parts very badly farmed. The straw, apparently, is of no value to the farmers, as, in many instances, it is allowed to rot in the fields. From Dresden to Chatham (the latter a fine town of 8,000 inhabitants), through a fine country, and many portions of it well farmed, although the wasteful practice of leaving the straw in the fields to rot, and in many instances burning it, was being very generally practiced.

October 3rd.—Took an extensive circuitous drive this forenoon, when we saw by far the best land we had yet seen. Saw very fine farms on both sides of the river Thames, upon which there is communication with the lakes by steamboat. The land in this district is of a strong loamy nature, and will grow any kind of crops in abundance year after year without manure. We saw large fields of very fine maize in this district; also great fields of wheat grown successively thereon for many years. It is also a very fine grazing country. Some of the farmers here fatten a large number of cattle for export to Britain, which, they informed us, had paid them very well, and to all appearance it is a trade that will extend very rapidly. In the afternoon we drove by way of Buckhorn to Blenheim, through a fine country, and generally well farmed. Grapes, peaches and apples are very extensively grown in this district in the open air. We drove for many miles along the highway, with orchards on both sides, which extend all the way to Detroit, a distance of over 30 miles. The fruit was most abundant, and is a very profitable crop. They are starting sugar beet factories in this district. The sugar beet here grows to perfection, from 40 to 50 tons per acre, and for which they get \$5 per ton at the factory. I consider a great portion of the land I saw to-day as good, and in many instances much better, than the land around Edinburgh, and, as I said before, it will grow wheat and maize year after year without manure. Saw again to-day great stacks of straw burning, a most wasteful practice. Driving through the district in company with the Sheriff, I drew his attention to this, and suggested that he should pass an Act making it criminal to put such good fodder into the flames, at which he laughed, and said he thought it a good idea. In reference to this, the Sheriff told me of an enterprising farmer who had shifted his barns three times to get rid of accumulated manure. The Sheriff had also

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seen large quantities of straw pitched into the river from the threshing machine. Farms here can be bought from \$20 to \$75 per acre, according to the state of cultivation and buildings.

October 4th.—Drove this morning towards the lake. The land is good, with a gentle slope and southern exposure, and grows any kind of crop to perfection. Some farms here could be bought from \$30 to \$50 per acre. Looked like a good investment. Driving to Ridgetown—where they had a local show, which was a very creditable exhibition—from thence to Thamesville, where we took train to Ingersoll. Between Blenheim and Thamesville the soil is various, mostly light; good portion new country, partly cleared. Leaving the train at Ingersoll, we drove to Woodstock, in County Oxford. Light gravelly soil most of the way.

October 5th.—Drove to Eastwood, a farm of 1,000 acres; 200 uncleared; a mansion thereon, together with fine buildings, gardens, lawns, etc.; and a beautiful place to reside. We were hospitably entertained by Mr. T. C. Patteson, who wishes to sell the place, and asks \$50,000 for it. The land between this and Woodstock looked poor and worn out.

October 6th.—Went by rail to Bow Park Farm; about 1,000 acres. Drove round a great portion of it, and inspected all the stock, which consists of the famous herd of pedigree shorthorns (the largest in the world, upwards of 400), besides 100 cows, kept for nurses, etc. It would be impossible to describe the different strains of this herd in a short statement of this kind. Suffice it to say, they have generally carried first honours wherever they have gone. There is also a small flock of Leicester sheep kept, which are very select. The buildings are very substantial, and well adapted to the requirements of such a large establishment. The land is well farmed in every respect, and certainly managed on scientific principles. We were very hospitably entertained by the energetic manager, Mr. Clay, jun., a well-known Berwickshire gentleman, and spent a pleasant and profitable afternoon. The country through which we passed was in part very good land, hops being grown to a certain extent.

October 7th.—Our drive from Woodstock to-day was through a very fine country, where we saw some very good, well-farmed land. Visited several large cheese factories, which seemed to be well-managed, everything being the perfection of cleanliness. Mr. Smith, whom we called upon, had just tied up 40 cattle to feed, which he informed us was very profitable. We stayed dinner with Mr. Donaldson, originally from Cumberland, who has a fine farm of 300 acres, for part of which he paid \$85 per acre. His barns and stables are well arranged and substantial, and everything well managed. From this we drove to Ingersoll through a very good country as a rule, rather more hilly than we had yet seen. Saw a very considerable number of cattle and sheep in the fields, mostly fair sorts. Principally a dairy district, all the milk being sent into the cheese factories. Cows, we are informed, will pay \$30 to \$40 each.

October 8th.—From Ingersoll to Norwich we drove through a very fine country, where we saw a great many farms with fine brick houses and other substantial outbuildings. Judging from outward appearances, farmers in this district seem to be in a very prosperous condition. There is a very considerable extent of grazing land, well stocked with good cattle. From Norwich to Woodstock the land is much the same; all the farmers seemingly prosperous; houses and outbuildings good and the land well cultivated. Farms here would sell from \$70 to \$80 per acre, but not many in this district for sale.

October 9th.—Went by rail from Simcoe, in County of Norfolk, principally through a poor country. A great fire many years ago had burned a large portion of forest, the trees in many places still standing giving the country a weird appearance. The wood here being mostly pine, the fields under cultivation are still full of stumps which will last for a hundred years, unless taken up by the stumping machine. These stumps are quite unlike the hardwood, which will rot in a few years. Driving round by Waterford we saw some very fine-looking, well cultivated farms. The soil mostly of a light description, in our opinion too much so. I called upon Mr. Alex-

ander Hunter, my predecessor in Allenshaws. It is needless for me to say he was delighted to see me. He has now retired from farming, and lives in the outskirts of the town, where he has a very fine place.

October 10th.—Driving by Lake Erie shore, along with Mr. Hunter, as far as Port Dover, we saw a number of good farms. He gave me a very good report of the country generally for farming. In his own words, "you can grow any kind of crop to perfection." He has grown, some seasons, 400 bushels of carrots (60 lbs. per bushel) upon a quarter of an acre. He also says, "put a sheep on the worst ground in Canada, and it will make them fat," which I can corroborate, having never seen a lean sheep while there.

October 11th.—Came by rail from Simcoe to Stratford; it being market day there for wheat, potatoes, and vegetables of all kinds, also poultry and butchers' meat. Price of wheat \$1.20 per bushel, turkeys about 75 cents, geese 50 to 60 cents, and chickens from 12 to 25 cents. Drove out in the afternoon with Mr. Hay, M.P.P. We saw many fine farms. The fall wheat was more forward here than districts we have yet visited. Land here can be bought, with good buildings, from \$30 to \$40 per acre.

October 12th.—Sunday.

October 13th.—Drove to Milverton, and called upon several farmers, old countrymen who had all been very successful. A good country, in parts recently settled. Farms can be bought here from 30 to 50 dollars per acre. Saw a great many good cattle, which they feed for the British market. From Milverton to Listowel we drove through a fine country—a good part new; all the wheat forward.

October 14th.—We went to see a rotary plough working in a stubble field close by the town. This is a most remarkable implement. When some little improvements are made upon it, which the inventor explained to us he meant to carry out, I am certain it will come into general use for some kinds of work. A boy with a pair of light horses will plough five acres a day with it. Afterwards drove into the country, returning to Listowel for luncheon. We passed through a considerable portion of lately reclaimed land; in many parts the wheat was very far forward, and in some instances inclined to "lodge," which shows the richness of the soil. From Listowel to Harrison, County Wellington, drove through a good country, mostly new. In passing along we saw lots of very well bred cattle. A good many roots grown here and all a good crop. Land can be bought here from 20 to 50 dollars per acre.

October 15th.—From Harrison we drove to Walkerton, by way of Newstead, in County of Bruce, through a fair good country, some parts new and more hilly than what we had yet seen. Saw many good stone farm-houses. A good many Germans in this locality, who are generally good farmers.

October 16th.—Drove a wide circuit this forenoon, calling at Mr. River's, who is originally from Devonshire. He had a very good herd of shorthorn cattle, and very excellent root crops. We had luncheon with him. The land we passed through to-day is mostly of a light description. Came to Wingham, in County Huron, through a great portion of new country. The soil mostly of a rich nature. Land, where we have been to-day, can be bought from 20 to 50 dollars per acre.

October 17th.—Went by rail from Wingham to Clinton, whence we drove to Seaforth, through a very good, well-farmed country. In passing along we pulled wheat over two feet high, which was sown in September. I may mention that we have seen hundreds of acres stocked with cattle and sheep to keep it down. There are large numbers of well-bred cattle in this district, which is one of the best we had seen; price of land here from 60 to 80 dollars per acre. Took train at Seaforth for Guelph, passing through a good and fairly well-farmed country all the way.

October 18th.—Visited the Agricultural College and Model Farm, 560 acres in extent, established about fifty years ago; it is an excellent institution, and doubtless will be of great benefit to the country. There are generally about 100 students, who perform most of the work upon the farm, and undergo a special course of training to fit them for farmers. The various breeds of cattle and sheep are kept, and all the different grains, roots and vegetables grown upon the farm, of which a correct account

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is kept, enabling them to judge which is the most profitable. We called at Mr. Whitlaw's (originally from Berwickshire), a fine farm of 350 acres, well cultivated. We saw there a very fine flock of Leicester sheep, and some good cattle. Moving on we called on Mr. Hobson, who has also a fine farm of 350 acres, and a herd of good short-horns.

October 19th.—Sunday. After church we drove with Mr. Laidlaw, M.P. for Guelph (originally from Hawick), to his farm, about seven miles from the town. He has a fine place and good stock. He has kindly sent me a statement of what he considers can be made of a 200-acre farm under ordinary circumstances. This I believe to be a very fair and moderately drawn statement, as far as I am able to judge, and which goes to prove that $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. can be made off farming capital, but this does not include the increase in the value of the land. Remained over night with Mr. Laidlaw, who drove me into Guelph in the morning.

October 20th.—Took a drive into the country round about Guelph. Generally speaking the cattle are good in this district. Some of the land has the appearance of being worn out, while some was in very good condition. We visited the Messrs. Watt's farm, a good place. They have an excellent herd of shorthorns. We observed that a good crop of swedes were being lifted—23 tons per acre.

October 21st.—Came by rail to Toronto through a good country. Toronto is a large and fine city, beautifully situated on the shores of Lake Ontario. Splendid villas extend far out into the country in every direction.

October 22nd.—We visited several good farms near Toronto, which were for sale. The proprietors were asking from 100 to 125 dollars per acre; I think a high price.

October 23rd.—We went by rail to St. Catharines, and drove into the country—a great fruit-growing district. We visited a vineyard of 50 acres—a most interesting sight—where they were just finishing gathering the grapes, which they make into wine. This industry, it is expected, will grow into greater proportions.

October 24th.—Left Toronto by rail for Montreal (a fourteen hours' journey), passing through a great diversity of country. Some of it was very good, upon which hops were grown to a considerable extent. One portion of the journey extended about 30 miles through a very poor district.

October 25th.—Stayed in Montreal all day, and went up to Mount Royal Park, from which you get one of the finest and most extensive views in the world. My friend, Mr. Irvine, who has been all over Europe, declared it to be finer than the Bay of Naples. The Windsor Hotel, at which we stayed, is allowed to be one of the finest on the American continent.

October 26th.—Sunday in Montreal.

October 27th.—Left Montreal by train for Cookshire, in the Eastern Townships. Crossed the St. Lawrence by the tubular bridge, nearly two miles in length. Thence passed through a very extensive tract of flat land, mostly occupied by French settlers. Apparently good land, but very much exhausted. In parts nothing but a bed of thistles. From there we passed through a swampy, scrubby country in Richmond, where we stopped 20 minutes; and thence on to Sherbrooke. Did not think highly of this part of the country. After half an hour we started for Cookshire, where the railway passed through a swampy, poor country.

October 28th.—Starting from Cookshire we had a hurried glance at the Hon. J. H. Pope's farm of 1,000 acres in extent. We were informed he was feeding 150 cattle. We drove to Sherbrooke by way of Compton. The country we passed through was of a hilly, stony nature, generally more fit for grazing than cultivation; yet in several places we saw that hops had been grown. Taken altogether it is a rough country. Farms here can be bought from 15 to 30 dols. per acre. A great many of them extend to 400 acres and upwards. Nearly every farm here has a maple grove, from which they make the maple sugar. From Compton to Sherbrooke the country is much better, although still partly stony. Some good grazing, and fine meadow land along the river St. Francis. Altogether, by judicious selection, many good farms of considerable extent could be got at a moderate price in comparison with Ontario. The townships most suitable for farmers to go to are:—Durham, Compton, Barnston, Stanstead, Eton, Newport, Bury, Ascot, Dudswell, Skipton, Kingsy and Milbourn.

October 29th.—Left Sherbrooke by rail for Quebec, passing, generally speaking, through a poor country.

October 30th.—Drove to the Falls of Montmorenci, a distance of nine miles, passing through some very fine land as good as any we had seen.

October 31st.—Visited the citadel and all other sights worth seeing in Quebec.

November 1st.—Sailed for Liverpool in the Allan S.S. "Sardinian," where we arrived safely on the 10th.

I have described the country through which I passed as fairly as I was able to judge. The roads in some counties are very good, in others again inferior. The "gravel" roads are generally in good repair. The railway communication is good and cheap, and they are always building more. Regarding the climate, it is hotter in summer and colder in winter than at home. The autumn or fall is delightful, as I can speak from experience. The atmosphere being clear and dry one does not feel the extremes so much. Winter (which is considered by many such a drawback to Canada) generally commences in the parts I visited, about the middle of December, and goes in March. Although little or no ploughing is done, farmers have plenty of work preparing wood for next season's fuel, and other odds and ends. I find, after due enquiry, that cattle are not housed longer than in Scotland, and it is the universal testimony of the people that their winters are most enjoyable. I consider that farming in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec is in a transition state. The growing of wheat in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, which will increase with rapid strides, must soon affect the growers of wheat in these provinces. They are already alive to that fact, and for some time back have been increasing their stocks of cattle and sheep. Calves, instead of being mostly killed, as formerly, to save the milk for making butter and cheese, are now all reared, which, in a very short time, must enormously increase the supply of cattle for exportation to this country. The Dominion of Canada, from the energetic nature of its people and boundless resources of every kind, has a great future before it. With regard to farmers emigrating to the Province of Ontario or the Eastern Townships, Province of Quebec, I have not the slightest hesitation in recommending them to do so; as I am satisfied, from what I saw, that men with moderate capital could do better than they can at home; and that for several reasons. In the first place you can buy and stock a farm for little more than it takes to stock one at home; then there is no rent to pay and taxes are very light; they do not exceed from 4d. to 10d. per acre, according to the value of the property. You can make the most of the land by growing the most profitable crops, and those best suited to your soil and climate. There you have no lawyer factor, prescribing in a long antiquated lease which almost no man can understand, what crops you shall grow, and what seed you shall sow, as if you did not understand your business better than he is able to teach you, and, generally speaking, binding you to protect the landlords' hares to eat your own crops. In my own case, however, I have been very liberally dealt with, both as regards cropping clauses and game.

Again, a man going there with a family can get a first-class education free for his children, which at home costs a great deal of money. I consider their educational system one of the best possible. In a new country there are many more opportunities and openings turning up than there are in an old country, that young men of intelligence and enterprise can take advantage of. Regarding men with large capital and wishing to farm extensively, I do not think the older provinces so well suited, as a difficulty would be found in getting a large tract of land in one block at a moderate price. From all accounts, and I have the best information from practical men, Manitoba or the North-West Territories would be the best place for farming on a large scale; and I would say these are also the places for a poor man. There he can get 160 acres of land free; and if he has a family, each member eighteen years of age gets the same; so that he has a large farm at once, his own property for ever, and no rent to pay. In conclusion, I beg to express my warmest thanks to Sir John A. Macdonald, the Premier of Canada, the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, and the other members of the Canadian Government, for the attention they paid us; as also those gentlemen who accompanied us through the provinces. While the farmers and gen-

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men in the towns through which we passed were unending in their kindness and hospitality, they were always ready to give information and show us everything in their power.

MR. LOGAN'S REPORT.

Mr. Logan—who was greeted with cheers—read the following report:—

Having been asked by the Government of Canada to go out there as a delegate, along with others, to report on the advantages and resources of that country, and to give our friends and the press information on our return, it was arranged that we should sail from Liverpool on the 11th September, 1879. We took our passage on board the Allan Steamship *Peruvian*, Capt. Smith, and arrived at Quebec on Sunday, 21st September. We went by train to Richmond, and our party divided; some going on to Ottawa, and others and myself going to Sherbrooke, where we got a conductor who showed us the country. From Sherbrooke, where we arrived on Monday morning, we drove on to Compton and visited the farm of the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, which is a very fine one. After partaking of his hospitality, we walked out to see his farm, which consists of 1,000 acres, mostly in grass, with the exception of 50 acres in grain and 25 acres in Swedish turnips and mangolds. The grain crop has been a very good one judging from the appearance of the stubble, the harvest having been completed before our arrival. The turnip crop was the best I ever saw at the season; Mr. Cochrane told us they would still grow till November, when they would be lifted. He has 400 cattle on the farm, the most of which are pure bred shorthorns. They certainly are a very fine lot, and are bred from the finest stock that England could produce. He gets high prices for the stock for breeding purposes, even when sent back to England. He also feeds a good many cattle during winter, for which he gets £10 each for profit. The stock of sheep on this farm is of the Shropshire breed, and he sells the lambs from £5 to £6 each for breeding. Besides the grain and turnip crops, he has an immense crop of hay, all being consumed by the cattle and sheep during the winter. He sows amongst the grain 2 lbs. of red clover, 2 lbs. of alsike, and 8 lbs. of timothy grass; and cuts twice yearly for three consecutive years (4½ tons per acre,) an immense crop of hay. This farm is in very high order, and is exceedingly well managed. Mr. Cochrane pays his workmen at the rate of 12 dollars per month with board.

We also visited several farms in the Eastern Townships, ranging in extent from 400 to 600 acres, with plenty of wood, good buildings, and streams of clear water and which might be bought from 25 to 30 dollars per acre. The land here is more adapted for the raising and feeding of stock, and for growing root crops than for grain. There is also abundance of fruit, viz., apples and small fruit of the best description. We all thought that the Eastern Townships district was a very good country to farm.

Leaving this, we proceeded by rail to Ottawa, met the other delegates, and had a conference with the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture. As the district show was being held at the time, we paid a visit to it, and inspected all the stock; it was there where the Bow Park stock took so many prizes. The cattle were a very fine lot; some of our English breeders would have been surprised at the exhibition of such cattle there. The horses and sheep did not come up to our expectation, but the roots and grain from Manitoba were, on the other hand, the wonder of all. There was a crush every day to get into the hall to see the wonderful roots and samples of grain. We also visited the farms in the neighbourhood of Ottawa, but saw nothing very good from the time we left the Eastern Townships.

Ottawa has sprung up within the last thirty years. The Parliamentary Buildings are very fine, being built of hewn stone, and standing, as they do, on high ground, have a very commanding appearance. There are several other public buildings and a few streets of the same material, but the most of the city is built of wood. Bears have been killed on the present site of the Parliamentary Buildings by men still alive. Leaving Ottawa at night we had not an opportunity of seeing about us

till we came near Toronto, where the land again improves. As we had a little time to spare we paid a visit to the celebrated Falls of Niagara, and viewed them both by day-light and torch-light, and a grander sight I never saw—it fact, it is worth going 3000 miles to see this alone. We also visited the burning spring close to the falls, which was discovered by some Indians. They had an encampment near it and their fire ignited the vapour, which is sulphureted hydrogen gas, and burns with a very brilliant light. It is now enclosed, and the gas is led up through a pipe about four feet from the ground.

After seeing all the sights there, for variety we returned to Toronto by the Great Western Railway, having come up by Lake Ontario. The land on the south side is more of a fruit country—grapes, apples, pears, and peaches being in great abundance. From Hamilton to Toronto the land looked well, but we had not the same opportunity of judging from a railway carriage. Next day we went to the grain market, where wheat was selling at 1.16 dollars per bushel of 60 lbs.; barley, 1 cent per lb., 48lbs. to the bushel; hay at 9 dollars per ton of 2000 lbs.—the hay is a mixture of clover and timothy grass. In the owners' market beef was selling at 5 cents per lb., lamb at 6 cents per lb. wholesale price. The 4lb. loaf at that time was 12 cents; flour per barrel of 200 lbs., price 5.25 dollars.

Sept. 20.—We started for Manitoba, passing through Brampton, Guelph, and Stratford. The land is good and the turnip crop excellent, and the country in general had a very fine appearance. We often remarked that there were very few cattle, and those not of a good stamp. The farmers are now directing their attention more to the breeding of cattle of a right sort. Formerly all the calves, or nearly so, were killed when dropped, whereas now they are all reared to be sent to Britain. We sailed from Sarnia on the 1st October, and reached Goderich about 11 o'clock same day, and remained there for three hours, taking in barrels of salt. An immense quantity of salt of the finest quality is made there. The brine is taken from wells 800 feet deep, afterwards boiled and then put into barrels and sent to different parts of the country, and sold at 75 cents per barrel.

The scenery up Lake Huron and Superior is very grand. We also visited the silver mines at Silver Island, the richest in the world. We arrived at Thunder Bay, now Prince Arthur's Landing, on Saturday, 4th October, intending to remain there till Monday morning.

We were asked by two members of the Canadian Government, the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell and Hon. Mr. Aikins, to go with them to inspect the Canadian Pacific Railway, which the Canadian Government are now making to Winnipeg. We travelled 130 miles along the line, which was very smooth, and everything seemed well balanced and finished. The land all the way was poor, a great deal of the wood burned down, and only stumps remaining. It is expected the line will be opened through in the course of another year.

We proceeded on our journey in the afternoon by way of Duluth, arriving next day at noon, having travelled on the lakes 900 miles. We then went by the Northern Pacific Railway up the banks of the St. Louis River, which are very steep and rugged and well-wooded, but darkness coming on prevented us from seeing much. On daylight appearing we had arrived in the prairie country, where no trees are to be seen and very little cultivation, and from this it is prairie ground all the way to Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, where we arrived on Friday morning, having travelled 500 miles from Duluth. The mayor and civic authorities met us at the station and accompanied us to an hotel, and made arrangements for our travelling through Manitoba early in the morning. This, however, was departed from, as we did not leave Winnipeg till three o'clock for Portage-la-Prairie, and only travelled 34 miles that afternoon, and arrived at a small inn called Houses on Pigeon Lake. After leaving Winnipeg the land is of a black, sticky loam, and very swampy for seven or eight miles along the banks of the Assiniboine River, when it begins to improve. There is not much cultivation till we get to a place called High Bluff, where the land is very good; growing very fine crops of wheat, judging from the appearance of the stubble and the bulk of grain in stacks, none of

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which are thatched, nor does it seem to be thought necessary that they should be thatched, but it gives them a very slovenly appearance. All the land round this district is very good, being four feet deep of black loam, as we saw from a sand pit. The water is also good, as we drank some from the creek. The land here has grown wheat for 40 years in succession, yielding from 25 up to 40 bushels per acre, weight 60 lbs. per bushel, and selling for 60 cents per bushel. The farmers had sold it too soon, as the price had gone up very much. There are not many oats sown here, but the general produce is about 70 bushels per acre. We arrived at Portage-la-Prairie on Saturday afternoon. The land is good all the way from High Bluff. From Winnipeg to Portage it is 60 miles. On taking a walk in the evening we held a conversation with a man who was ploughing. His farm consists of 320 acres. He told us that he had grown wheat in succession for seventeen years, and that it had been in wheat thirteen years before he bought the farm, and had grown very good crops at an average of 32 bushels per acre of 60 lbs. weight per bushel. He also said that he could plough 2 acres daily with two very small horses. This man had also sold his wheat too soon. There is about 40 cents per bushel difference between value of wheat in Manitoba and Montreal. This will be reduced to 20 cents or thereby when the Canadian Pacific Railway is made through to Winnipeg and on to Portage-la-Prairie. Wheat can be grown in Manitoba for 55 cents per bushel, leaving a profit, the expense per acre for ploughing, harrowing, seed, sowing, cutting, binding, carrying, and thrashing, being 8 dollars. This is when the Sulkey plough is used. With this plough one man can turn over 5 acres daily. It is a double-furrow plough, and is drawn by four horses or mules, the man being seated and managing the plough with a lever.

The Delegates here again divided, three going west in the direction of Rapid City, and the others and self returning to Winnipeg by a more northerly route, where the land is equally good. We arrived at night at a roadside inn, about half-way to Winnipeg. Proceeding next day, on our way we met a man going from Ontario to Rapid City, about 100 miles west from Portage, who told us that he had bought 1,920 acres of land for himself and five sons, 320 acres each, viz, 160 acres called "homestead," which he got free, and 160 acres called "pre-emption," for which he had to pay 960 dollars. This man was in great spirits at having acquired so much property, and he seemed to have a preference for the land about Rapid City and the Pembina Mountains to any other that he had seen. We also met a number of English immigrants going west to the neighbourhood of Rapid City. One of them had got into a "slough" (as it is called in that district), and we had to assist him out, the reason of his having stuck fast being attributable to the state of the roads in wet weather, and their want of metal. Those men had two oxen in each waggon, for which they paid on an average 135 dollars, and 85 dollars for each waggon, and this was considered to be very dear. Another man informed us that he would not have left England if his landlord had been more liberal with him. He had lost a lot of money in his farm, and the landlord rather than give him a reduction took the farm into his own hands, and he was certain the landlord would lose money by it, and be obliged in a year or two to let it to someone else at half the rent. At this season a great many prairie fires take place, everything being so dry. Some of the settlers have lost all their property from not having taking the proper precaution, but by ploughing a good breadth of land round their homesteads this may be prevented. There are a good many cattle in this district, but not of a good sort, the prices ranging from 16 to 20 and 40 dollars each, and for horses the prices being about 100 dollars. We also visited a herd of buffalo bulls and cows grazing among the native cows belonging to the Hon. James McKay, who has a property near to Winnipeg.

Oct. 14—We set out for a southern inspection up the Red River. After leaving Winnipeg the land is swampy for some miles out, it then begins to improve, and where the people have settled down, it is cultivated to a small extent. On reaching Morris, on the Scratching River, and for many miles round, the land is good, the country looks well, and the crops very fine. We remained

at Morris all night. Passing along next morning some of our party were very successful in shooting a great many prairie chickens in the course of an hour. They are very abundant in some parts of the country. They are something like the grouse in Scotland, but lighter in colour. The sport afforded great amusement to us all, and we lost no time by it, as the horses were resting and feeding. We then resumed our journey. The prairie grass to the west of Morris had been all burned, which gave the country a very dismal appearance. However, the soil is excellent, being black loam, but little or no cultivation till we got to Lowe's farm. This farm is the joint property of Mr. James Lowe, of Manchester, and Mr. John Lowe, of Ottawa (Secretary to the Department of Agriculture), whose two sons are in Manitoba. It is managed by Colonel Westover, who has begun to cultivate on a most extensive scale. The farm comprises 12,000 acres. He began to plough last summer, and will sow 500 acres of wheat next spring, and will go on increasing every year until the most of the land is under wheat. He has 25 horses at present, but instead of buying more horses he intends purchasing a great many oxen or mules. This will be a magnificent farm in a few years. The soil is very good and deep. We could judge of this from what we saw, where Mr. Lowe was digging a well. It was fully two feet deep of thick loam. He had, however, been unfortunate in his horses, having lost eleven. We advised him not to give them too much dry food, but to give them some linseed or linseed cake.

After leaving Lowe's farm we drove through many miles of prairie ground, but saw no cattle. Our opinion was that there might be millions more cattle reared annually then there are at present, if people would only go out from the old country and try it. They would make fortunes, as there are thousands, nay millions, of acres for sale. Our party again shot some prairie chickens. They are in great numbers and there are thousands of wild ducks. By-the-way, I may add there is neither gun nor game license requisite in Canada, and no gamekeepers to annoy one as there are in Scotland. In fact, these men have often been the means of creating bad feeling between landlord and tenant there. Every one is astonished that the landlords of Scotland should so generally give credence to their reports, as gamekeepers too frequently misrepresent matters for their own interest. In my own case I may state I have not thus been annoyed, my landlord having been kind enough to give me the shooting on my farm.

To return to our former subject. We arranged to visit another farm, of 4,000 acres, on Tobacco Creek, belonging to the Messrs. Riddell, sons of Mr. Riddell, of Hundalea, Roxburghshire, at one time President of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture. We drove up to their house, and found them at home, and got a hearty welcome. We were scarcely seated when a severe thunderstorm came on, followed by rain. Next morning it was dry though cloudy, but cleared away in the afternoon, when we were driven through the farm, which is a very fine one, full of the wild rose, this being a sign of good land in Manitoba. They have shown great wisdom in selecting such a good spot. They have a lot of land under the plough, and grow first-rate crops of wheat, which they sell for seed to people in their district. The Messrs. Riddell's crop of wheat is generally about 32 bushels per acre, and weighs 62 lbs. per bushel. They intend going largely into the breeding of cattle, and we thought they were right. They have a good lot at present, and intend buying more this autumn. I have no doubt these gentlemen will in a few years make large fortunes. I hope they may, as they are most industrious young men.

Manitoba is a very healthy country, and has a very fertile soil. It is generally very dry in summer, and in winter the cold is no greater, and the snow seldom so deep, as in Ontario. Plenty of wood can be got at Winnipeg, and also at Rapid City, for building purposes. There are two saw mills being erected at present. The wood is sent down the Saskatchewan River from the White Mud River and White Lake, where plenty of timber is to be had. Coal has also been found on the Saskatchewan River in beds $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet thick, and on the Pembina River 7 feet thick. In fact it abounds everywhere, so that there will be no lack of fuel. There is also a grist-mill erecting at Rapid City. There was a great talk some time ago about the grasshoppers doing

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great damage to the wheat crop, but none have been seen for three or four years, and they don't expect to be annoyed again for years to come. In this I report only what was told me.

Manitoba is very different from Ontario; there are no trees to hinder the plough, only prairie grass, and this must be ploughed down in June and July with a furrow 2 inches deep and 12 or 14 inches wide. It is found that the soil is rotted better in these months from the heat being so great. It is again ploughed over in the autumn or spring, and once yearly after, no manure being required. In fact, all the straw, which in Britain would be converted into manure, is burned. The taxes are light and the Canadian Government reserve two sections in each township for educational purposes. Each section contains 640 acres, and there are thirty-six sections in each township. My opinion is that this is the country for British farmers to go to, as if we remain much longer at home our means will be all gone. Every year it is being drained away, and landlords make no concession. We are all aware that a bargain is a bargain; but if landlords would show a little consideration in such bad times as we have of late years experienced they would be no losers in the long run. We had no idea when we entered on our present leases that we were to have such a succession of bad seasons, and, combined with this, the great increase of wages and tradesmen's bills. Few farmers will be able to renew their leases. In their determination to get all their rents, landlords are only killing the goose that lays the golden eggs. My advice is, that as long as we have a little capital left to secure some of it in that country beyond the Atlantic where plenty of land can be bought from the Canadian Government for one dollar per acre, equal to 4s. 2d. British money.

Since leaving Manitoba the Hudson's Bay Company have advertised for sale 500,000 acres out of 7,000,000 acres of land which they hold in the North-West, from three dol. to six dols. per acre. They have two sections in each township, containing 640 acres each. The land requires no clearing of timber and no liming, and little or no draining, the most of it being dry and easily wrought; it only needs to be ploughed, and at once it produces good crops. We next took a run through Ontario, and having made arrangements with the Hon. George Brown to visit the far-famed herd of shorthorns at Bow Park we travelled by the Great Western Railway by Hamilton, the scenery there being very grand, and equally so all the way to Harrisburg. The wheat crop was most luxuriant, but we thought too far advanced for the season: Some of the farmers had turned their cattle into it, which was the best thing to do. In former days this system was pursued in Berwickshire when the wheat was too far advanced (which was called getting proud). In that county it was stocked in April and May; but this is never done now, as there is little or no fallow wheat. On arriving at Brantford we were met by Mr. Clay, jun., son of Mr. Clay, Kerchesters, Roxburghshire, also at one time President of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture, who drove us out to Bow Park, which is a magnificent farm, and examined the celebrated shorthorns, which are the wonder of the Canadians and of every one else. Such a valuable lot of stock is seldom to be seen. They are mostly fed on the produce of the farm—rye in spring, clover in summer, and Indian corn in winter. This is all put through the chaff-cutter and mixed with turnips, mangold, and a little linseed cake, which is very cheap in Canada. The Indian corn, I may mention, grows 10 feet high, and is allowed to remain out in stock all winter, and is taken in daily as required. The cattle seem to thrive well on this mixture, as they were in fine order, and when sold they command high prices for breeding purposes. I am sure the Canadians are under deep obligations to the Hon. George Brown, and also to the Hon. M. H. Cochrane of Compton, for introducing such a very fine herd of shorthorns into their country. If those gentlemen had been in Britain, they would have been almost idolized. After leaving Bow Park, where we were treated with the greatest kindness by Mr. Clay, we drove on to Woodstock, and visited several farms in that neighbourhood, where some of the farmers were taking up their swedish turnips, from 600 to 700 bushels per acre of 60 lbs. weight per bushel. They cut off the shaw with a hook, and give them a double turn with the harrows, which pulls them up, and they are then ready for carting to the root-house. They find no diff-

culty in growing turnips if sown about the middle of June. Good land sells in that district from 60 to 90 dollars per acre, according to situation, and with good buildings. We also visited a cheese factory, supposed to be the largest in Canada. They make 45 cheeses daily of 60 lbs. weight each, which sell at 12 cents per lb. Three months before our visit they could not get 6 cents per lb., equal to 3d. per lb. of our money. The farmers in the district send their milk to that factory.

When at Guelph, we drove out to the College of Agriculture. This institution was built by the Ontario Government for the training of farmers' sons and others in the Province of Ontario in the theory and practice of agriculture. There are ninety young men in the establishment. Each student is required to work five hours daily, for which he receives at the rate of 10 cents per hour, tuition free, board and washing charged. The students do all the manual work on the farm under the superintendence of a foreman for each department. The farm consists of 550 acres, 400 acres of which are cleared. There are cattle and sheep, pigs and poultry on the farm, as well as grain.

Notwithstanding all the beauty of Ontario, I must give a preference to Manitoba as the place to which we farmers must all emigrate. Any one going to Manitoba, having £160, can take up one-half section (320 acres of land), viz., 160 acres homestead, which he gets free from the Canadian Government by agreeing to reside on the property and cultivate it for three years; he can also take up another 160 acres, "pre-emption," for which he has to pay 1 dollar per acre, payable by instalments, the first instalment, with interest being payable at the end of three years. Of course the settler can take up land near to a railway, for which he has to pay on pre-emption 2½ dollars per acre. In my opinion this will be the cheapest. It must be understood, when saying that a man with £160 may succeed, any one having £300 or £400 will get on much better, labourers' wages per day being 1½ to 2 dollars; and female servants per month, with board, 5 to 6 dollars; ploughmen, 1½ dollars per day. Estimate for a settler going to Manitoba and taking up a quarter-section:—

Provisions for one year.....	\$200
One yoke of oxen.....	130
One waggon.....	80
One cow.....	30
Plough and harrows.....	30
Chains, spades, forks, &c.....	20
Stove and bedstead.....	35
Seed.....	120
Building house and stable.....	155
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equal to £166 13s. 4d. of British money. This sum may perhaps surprise some people in this country, but it has been done for even less.

I cannot conclude my remarks without expressing heartily my gratitude for the thorough kindness I universally experienced from the Canadians during my sojourn amongst them. They are a most hospitable as well as a most industrious people. The Delegates have also to thank the Canadian Government for the great kindness shown them, as well as the comfortable arrangements made for them while travelling through their country.

MR. SNOW'S REPORT.

Mr. Snow, who was also received with applause, reported as follows (referring now and again to a map of the Dominion which hung on the wall):—

The Delegates pushed through for Ottawa, where they had an interview with the Minister of Agriculture for Canada, the Hon. J. H. Pope. Nothing could be kinder than the reception they met with, and I give you his words as nearly as I

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can recollect them:—"Gentlemen,—We have invited you to this country to see it for yourselves; we have no intention of saying to you we shall send you here, there, or anywhere; it is for you to say where you wish to go and there you shall be sent, and when you return tell your friends and neighbours exactly what you have seen. Tell them what is good about the country. I trust you will find nothing bad; but should you do so tell them that also."

Having read an article in *Chambers' Journal* more than twenty years ago about the fertile belt of North America, and knowing that a good deal of speculation existed in this country as to its capabilities for settlement, I requested to be sent there,—I point out on the map the route we took—and I shall now proceed to speak, first, of the future facilities for getting in and out of the country; second, its adaptation for wheat growing and cattle raising; third, who should go there.

Looking at the map, you will see, at the head of Lake Superior, Thunder Bay; from here a line is being constructed to Winnipeg, through which much of the traffic must pass; and having a long stretch of water carriage by the lakes, it can be carried cheaply. Then there is the present line through United States territory, barely completed when we were there. This will be a competing line, and will serve a very useful purpose for taking produce into the States; but it is a very round-about road going from Canada. There is also a projected route *vid* Nelson River and Hudson's Bay, Fort York, which is about the same distance as New York is from this country, but then it is only open for three months. Of course much could be done even in this short time in transporting grain and cattle.

The line from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg mainly goes through a very barren country; every article for the consumption of man and beast has to be carried in, and as it is rather a difficult subject in the matter of gradients the cost is heavy; but west of Winnipeg the country is level and fertile, so that railways are constructed cheaply. I understand 300 miles are already let at a very moderate figure. I should say that in five years there will be an immense amount of railways constructed in this region.

Along the Red River and about Winnipeg the soil is very strong black vegetable mould, and I have no doubt most of it would carry paying crops of wheat for thirty years; but it is very flat, and I must say that I like the country better west of Winnipeg, and the furthest point we reached, 150 miles west of Winnipeg, best of all. You have here the Little Saskatchewan River, with fine sloping ground on each side. The soil and what it produced was good, as you will see from the samples of each I now show you. I also show you samples from other parts; and the difference I saw betwixt the prairies in the States and Manitoba was, that in the first they seemed to be about a dead level, in the other you had a variety. You could get strong, level land, or gently rolling lighter land—land adapted for wheat-growing, land adapted for cattle-raising; and, as I will show you further on, the Americans themselves admit that we have ground better adapted for growing wheat and raising cattle than they have.

We saw that a black vegetable mould covered the surface from 18 inches to two, three, or four feet deep; and its fertility, no doubt, arose from vegetable decay and from the fires which every year sweep over those lands, depositing fine ashes. What was produced we had to take from the evidence we could collect from the people, and from the stacks and stubble in the fields; and I consider I keep safely within the mark when I say that, taking a good piece of land, it will produce, after being broken properly, 40 bushels the first year, and an average of 30 bushels for 30 years without manure. The land is also very easily broken. It is generally selected without trees, and is turned flat over in June and July with a breaking plough to the depth of two inches. In the fall it is again ploughed the same way, but taking another couple of inches. It is then sown with wheat in April, and in August they reap a heavy crop of wheat. Afterwards the land is very easily ploughed, a man with four mules or horses in a Sulky plow, taking two furrows, being expected to plow four or five acres per day.

Fair barley is grown, as per samples, but oats are light; the climate seems to ripen them too suddenly.

It seems to me to have a great future before it for cattle-raising, especially well-bred young stock, which could be fattened in Ontario, and then shipped to this country. All the cattle seen, although going on dry withered grass, as the prairie was when we were there, looked healthy and in good condition. There was any amount of hay to be got for the cutting; and the country is so adapted for the cutting with machine, that no provision need be made, but a man at once goes in and cuts away. This hay is better adapted for cattle than horses; so that a man going in to settle generally commences using cattle for ploughing and hauling. As to the extent of this land, I show you this parallelogram on the map, that is Manitoba, with ten millions of acres. There, stretching to the west and north-west is a country estimated to contain 176 million acres of fertile land, which must in the very near future produce largely the food required in other parts of the globe.

As to the right sort of people to go out, that largely depends upon circumstances; for working-men there will be employment on railways for some years; the pay when we were there was 6s. per day, and the contractor fed them for 12s. a week; but in winter they would require to go to other employment, such as wood-cutting. For young men, say if two were joining together having £500 to £1,000, they would do well either wheat or cattle raising, but they would require to be cautious as to their start. It would not be lost time boarding themselves out for a season with a farmer before making their final selection, and they must make up their minds to rough it. But countries such as this grow up with marvellous rapidity; population pours in; cities, churches, schools arise where a few years before nothing was heard but the howl of a wolf. The country seems also well adapted for such large speculations as Dalrymple's farm in Dakota, where 8,000 of acres were grown last year. This concern is carried on by a private company, and is understood to be very successful. You ask—Has this country no drawback? Certainly it has; it is a long distance from market; it has a long winter; there are mosquitoes, although we neither saw nor felt them. It may have grasshoppers, but I heard nor saw of any. I simply take the people, the cattle, and crops. I saw all three healthy and thriving alike, and I came to the conclusion that it is a good country to go to for those who feel they are cramped at home, and can make up their minds to rough it for a few years.

I conclude by showing you what our American cousins think of this country. The first quotation is from the *Philadelphia Press*:—

"The greatest wheat-growing region in the world is now being opened to settlement. The largest and most productive portion lies within the British Province of Manitoba in North America. It is sufficiently prolific, when fairly cultivated, to make England independent of the United States for breadstuffs, and to create a powerful rivalry elsewhere. The extent of this enormous and rich British territory is comparatively unknown to the United States. It is estimated at 2,984,000 square miles, whilst the whole of the United States south of the international boundary contains 2,933,000. In the north-western prairies of Canada, wheat often produces 40 to 50 bushels an acre, while in South Minnesota 20 bushels is the average crop, in Wisconsin only 14, in Pennsylvania and Ohio 15. Within five years it is calculated that 4,000,000 acres of this fertile prairie land will be under wheat cultivation. This means an addition to the wheat products of the world of 100,000,000 bushels, being the amount exported last year from America. It is evident that our superiority as a grain-growing country is likely to be seriously threatened by the rich prairie lands of this North-Western British America, as it will make the mother country entirely independent of foreign supply."

The second is from a speech delivered by the Hon. J. W. Taylor, United States Consul at Winnipeg, on Thursday, Oct. 2, 1879:—

After some remarks concerning the cotton and corn (Indian) growing sections of America, he goes on to say, "There remained the Northern Zone, especially adapted to wheat growing and cattle raising. That included Canada, Wisconsin, Michigan, and partly Minnesota, but three-fourths of the great wheat-producing belt of the Continent lay north of the boundary line of the United States. There the

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future bread supply of America, and of the old world, too, would be raised. The beef raised in this northern district was found superior to that produced farther south."

In a pamphlet by W. B. Close, recommending Iowa to settlers, I find the following:—

"I have reports from several of my farms stating the yield of wheat this year has fallen very little short of 30 bushels to the acre. Still, owing to its occasionally suffering from blight, it is not as certain a crop as in Manitoba."

Mr. Close, who has lands to sell in Iowa, might have added that the buffalo goes from the plains of the North-Western States and Territories into those of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West to winter on account of the more luxurious herbage, the lighter fall of snow, and the fact that, owing to the equable temperature which prevents the crusting of the snow, a result which follows alternate thaws and frosts, and renders it more difficult, and often impossible for cattle to reach the grass beneath.

These facts should be borne in mind by intending emigrants to North America, who are now being plied with all kinds of objections to the climate of the Dominion by interested agents of the various land and railway companies of Minnesota, Nebraska, Dakota, Iowa, Texas, &c.

The Chairman.—You have all heard the very emphatic terms in which the Dominion Territory, and particularly the western portion of it, has been described, on which there is not likely to be any discussion, properly speaking; but if any gentleman wishes to ask a question, the delegates will be glad to answer.

Mr. Turner wished to know the difference between Canada and the States as a field for farmers investing their capital.

The Chairman.—The delegates are from Canada only, and cannot therefore speak of the States. Besides, we all want to live under the British flag if possible—(hear, hear).

Mr. William Riddell (ex-president of the Scottish Chamber of Agriculture), Dundee, in response to a call from the chair, said—I have received many queries from England, Scotland, and even Ireland, regarding the position and prospects of farmers in the Province of Manitoba, and it will give me pleasure to communicate to this meeting what information I have been able to glean upon this interesting subject. Reference has been made to my sons, Andrew and James, now in the Canadian North-West. In the first place I may state that they have been located in Manitoba since the spring of 1877. Having purchased a quantity of land in the summer of 1876, with a view to settling upon it, they commenced, in May, 1877, to plough a bit of the prairie. They sowed wheat, barley, and oats, the seed of which they carried with them from this country. The produce of said crop (1877)—very unlike the crop in this country—yielded well: they also planted potatoes and other vegetables with success, and are now pursuing a mixed course of husbandry, having a little of everything—wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, turnips, &c., sheep, cattle, horses, and, of course, pigs. Having, as I have already said, been applied to by numerous parties to furnish information derived from my sons' experience and prospects in Manitoba, I put a number of questions with the view in the first instance of getting information for myself, and in the second place in order to be able to give a correct and satisfactory reply to the parties desiring information regarding Manitoba. The following are the answers to my questions:—We have never regretted coming here. Land can be purchased at from 1 to 10 dollars per acre, and its transfer is so simple that in a few minutes, and at almost no cost, any quantity can be transferred—(applause). Prairie land is easily broken up, and is turned over in June or July with as light a furrow as possible, turned back with an inch of frost mould before winter, but sometimes left till spring, when every description of cereals can be sown. Every description of crop succeeds well here, wheat yielding from 30 to 43 bushels, barley 45, and oats 55 per acre. Turnips, carrots, and cabbages grow as heavy crops as the best in Scotland—(applause). Land is rising in value rapidly, and labour can

be had at from 15 to 20 dollars a month, with rations. Timber is much needed, but when buildings and fences are well up, less will be required. In some localities it is very scarce, in other districts, plentiful, and consists of oak, ash, elm, poplar, and birch. Grain crops must all be fenced; but a law comes into operation next year (1880) to have all cattle pastures also fenced. A large herd of cattle could be kept, and if sheltered by woods and winubreaks, they might stand out nearly the whole season. Grass would scarcely give the finishing touch to feeding cattle, but a little crushed grain in addition would do it nicely. Winnipeg market is available for buying and selling, but the local demand at present is very good. Railway communication with the outer world is increasing daily, and this will be the means of levelling both up and down. That is to say, it will equalize prices. Bullocks seem to be best adapted for labouring the land, especially in the breaking up, being more easily maintained than horses, and less capital is required to put them on. The climate is very healthy; we heard of no disease prevalent in the country. The only tax is for educational purposes. Churches are supported partly by missions from Ontario and by voluntary contributions. No such a thing as State aid. The classes most required here are farmers with capital, farm and railway labourers, and domestic servants. At first we did not know how we were likely to succeed; but now we are in a position, from our experience and observation, to advise any plucky, industrious man, with from £500 to £1,000, to come out here. The best time for farmers to come is in September or October. If these months are not convenient, the end of March or April; the former time would enable a settler to select his location, purchase stock, and get ready to make an early start for next year's crop. A farmer's outfit should consist of trained yoke oxen, which may be bought at 125 dollars a pair and upwards; cows 35 dollars and upwards. Steel ploughs are the best, and cost from 25 to 30 dollars. Like all new countries, everything is quite primitive compared with Scotland. We have many discomforts and inconveniences, with hard work in seed, hay, and harvest time; but, notwithstanding all this, we have a very large amount of compensation. The land is our own; we can farm as we like, soil what suits us best—either the land or its produce—hunt and sport without hindrance, neither law nor contract preventing. (Applause.) All this sweetens labour very much, however. All who may think of coming here ought to make up their minds to rough it for a time; but with capital, patience, pluck, and perseverance no man need be afraid of making a good thing of it. (Applause.) With no rents and almost no taxes, we have the prospect of doing much better here than in the old country. These are the answers to questions which I put to my sons from time to time during the last eighteen months. You will observe, therefore, that they have not been got up for this occasion. (Hear, hear.) Now, I don't mean to talk politics; but I cannot help thinking from what we have heard stated by the delegates who have just returned from Canada on a tour of inspection, that there are several grave and important questions which might engage the attention of landlords and farmers in this country with the view of effecting a change for the better in regard to the relationship subsisting between them. (Hear, hear.) For example, the cultivator of Canadian land has the advantage of us in this country, being almost universally the owner, and is therefore in a position to make the most of everything the land produces. (Hear, hear.) Even the land can be sold and transferred as cheaply and easily as its produce, or nearly so. Well, owners of land in this country must be very blind if they cannot see what an advantage it would be to them if they could dispose of their land as easily as the Canadians, more especially when any pressure for money arises. (Hear, hear.) Another lesson landlords might learn is that when they let their land farmers ought to be in a position to make the most of their farms. (Applause.) This can only be done by placing them as nearly as possible in the position of owners, that is, with few or no restrictions as to cropping, full liberty to dispose of produce, no game reservations, compensation for unexhausted improvements on the one hand, payment for dilapidations on the other hand, no lease, twelve months notice on either side to quit, &c. (Applause.) Farmers may also learn much from what has been said—first, that there are millions of acres of land in Canada of the finest quality, and

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within a few days' journey from this country, and which can be purchased for less per acre than the yearly rent of land here—in a healthy climate and under the same government as our own—(applause)—and where at least all the necessities and many of the luxuries and comforts of this life are fully insured. Those of us who may be disposed or compelled to stay in this country ought to set about earnestly and unitedly to get themselves unfettered, and that, I venture to say, can only be done by sending men to Parliament whose interests are identical with our own. (Applause.)

Mr. Walker, poor's inspector, wished some explanation of the report that vast tracts of land in America were being run out of cultivation by the mode of culture adopted.

Mr. Elliot gave an illustration to show how this was being accomplished. Coming down in the train with a member of the Canadian Government, he observed a number of sacks piled up on the railway platform. Out of curiosity he went to see what they contained. A gentleman standing by informed him that it was mustard seed, and stated that it was all to be sown on 300 acres. Why, said Mr. Elliot, it will spoil your land. The reply was, "What the devil do I care for the land; I will get ten times more for the crop than the land is worth." (Laughter.)

Mr. Walker wished to know whether the water in the district spoken of was got from wells or streams.

Mr. Elliot said it was derived from streams and wells, and there was no difficulty whatever in procuring a good supply of water in the districts I visited.

Mr. Snow stated that there were immense districts in which there were lakes, which looked as if placed there for a gentleman's policies. From all he saw there was no lack of water, the country being well adapted for cattle feeding and breeding, though, of course, there were other districts which could be most advantageously occupied with wheat growing.

Mr. Kelly, Dunbar, wished to know how turnips were grown and stored in the climates alluded to—whether any quantity might be grown, and whether they could be stored in time.

Mr. Elliot said that in the district visited by him any quantity might be grown, and to the greatest perfection. Indeed, he had never seen better roots than he saw over there. They could easily be stored in time, and when he was there in October they were busy lifting.

Mr. Kelly—Were they of good growth?

Mr. Elliot—At Guelph, 23 tons per acre.

REPORT OF MR. GEORGE HUTCHINSON, DELEGATE FROM THE PENRITH FARMERS' CLUB.

A Meeting of the Penrith Farmers' Club was held on Tuesday, December 16th, for the purpose of hearing a report from Mr. George Hutchinson, Brougham Castle, the delegate chosen by the Club to visit Canada, "On the resources of Canada, and the advantages which it offers." There was a large attendance, and in the absence of the chairman, (Mr. H. C. Howard, of Greystoke), Mr. W. Heskett, the vice-president, took the chair. There was also present Mr. James Atkinson, Winderwath; Mr. J. Hogarth, Julian Bower; Mr. C. Thompson, Morland; Mr. J. Jameson, Moorhouses; Mr. B. T. Sweeten, Penrith; Mr. Richardson, Carlisle; Mr. J. Mitchell, Howgill Castle; Mr. H. P. Holme, Mardale; Mr. J. Longrigg, Great Strickland; Mr. T. Mitchell, Whinfell; Mr. Mounsey, Victoria Cottage; Mr. Winskill, Burton Hall; Mr. J. Heskett, Plampton Hall; Mr. Millican, Johnby; Mr. Thom, Kirkbythore; Mr. T. P. Lowthian, Templesowerby; Mr. J. Powley, Langwathby; Mr. Grahame, Carlisle; the Rev. H. Bishop, Langwathby; Mr. J. Crosby, Hirkbythore; Mr. Spencer, Murrah Hall; Mr. Wood, Lowther; Mr. Lazenby, Calthwaite House; Mr. Mitchell, Frenchfield; Mr. W. Savage, Hanging Bank; Mr. J. R. Baron, Mr. T. Hodgson, Mr. W. J. Heskett, Penrith; &c., &c.

Mr. Hutchinson then read his report, as follows :—

Most of you will no doubt remember that at a meeting of this club held on the 26th of August, Mr. Grahame, the Canadian Government Agent at Carlisle, gave you some information respecting the Dominion of Canada, and requested the farmers of this locality to select a delegate from amongst themselves, to go to Canada, "to observe and report upon the agricultural resources of that country, and the advantages it offers to emigrants." The choice having fallen upon myself, I left Liverpool on the 4th of September, in the Allan SS. "Moravian," accompanied by Mr. Pent and Mr. Johnston, two other delegates from Cumberland. The time on board the steamer passed in a very pleasant manner; it was, in fact, anything but the dreaded journey which many on leaving England to cross the Atlantic expect. About six days after we lost sight of the Irish coast, we came in sight of Belle Isle; further on we entered the river St. Lawrence, and thence to Quebec, where we stepped on shore on Canadian soil on Saturday evening the 13th of September. From Quebec we went to Ottawa, the capital of Canada, where we spent a very pleasant week in looking over the exhibits of the Dominion's Exhibition. Before and since my return to England, it has more than once been intimated to me, that not having time to see all, we should only be shown the most desirable parts, and that we should therefore come away with a more favourable impression than the circumstances justified. I think it only right to state that the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, gave us distinctly to understand that we could visit any district we wished; all that he wanted was that on our return we should give a fair and impartial account of the country. We were met at Ottawa by five other delegates who had left England a week later. On Friday evening, September the 26th, all the delegates who were then in Ottawa met at the office of the Minister of Agriculture, to arrange our future operations, it being thought most desirable that we should form two parties, half to stay in the old Provinces, the other to go to Manitoba and the North-West Territory. Having myself chosen to go to Manitoba, the greater part of this report must necessarily refer to it; but I will endeavour to give you a short account of Quebec, Ontario, and the Eastern Townships, as before going to, and on our return to Manitoba, we passed through these Provinces. I believe few people are aware of the geographical extent of the British possessions in North America, and of the fact that England owns more territory in North America than do the Yankees themselves. Its length from east to west is about 3000 miles, and its breadth from north to south 1500 miles, giving a total area of over three million square miles. You may perhaps form a better idea of its enormous extent when I tell you it is twenty-four times as large as the United Kingdom, and yet only contains a population of four millions, or little more than we have in London alone. The Province of Manitoba, of which of late we have heard so much, is situated in the middle of the continent, in the same latitude as Belgium and parts of Russia and Austria. It is, however, but a speck, as it were, compared with the vast territory out of which it has been formed. The city of Winnipeg, the capital of Manitoba, stands at the junction of the Assiniboine with the Red River. To give you some idea of the rapid growth of towns in these new districts, I may say that on the site of the city of Winnipeg thirteen years ago there were only about three log houses; to-day it is a place of over 10,000 inhabitants, and contains several large and well-built churches and schools, many shops equal in size and attractiveness to those in the eastern cities, large and good hotels, several banks, and many excellent private residences.

CLIMATE.

Canada is in the same latitude as the British Isles, Prussia, France, Austria, Russia, Sweden and Norway, and has as many varieties of climate as these countries. Judging of the Canadian climate from what I saw of it during the two months I was there, I may safely say that it was delightful, after being used to the wet weather and damp atmosphere of England. From information I received from those who had resided in the country some years, the winter is colder than in England,

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but the cold is accompanied by a much drier and brighter atmosphere, which causes a less disagreeable feeling of cold than a warmer temperature accompanied by dampness. The snow, which is perfectly dry, in many parts covers the ground to the depth of two or three feet. The constant traffic over it packs it down hard, so that in a few days it becomes like ice, over which the sleighs glide without the slightest obstacle to impede their progress. The Canadians say they can trot their horses for hours over these roads, and they come home at night almost as fresh as when they left the stables. The summers are warmer than here in England, in proof of which, in some of the more favoured districts, such as Niagara and other parts of South Ontario, grapes come to perfection in the open air. I also saw some equally as fine near to Ottawa, 150 miles further north. When we were returning from viewing the Falls of Niagara, at the station we saw 137 baskets of fine ripe grapes which had been grown in the district; with such facts as these let it not be said that Canada is a wilderness of ice and snow. That the air in Canada is very much drier than in England is proved, I think, by the duration of wooden houses, which last for fifty years, and by the total absence of that green moss which we see upon a wooden house in England after it has stood twelve months. The Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territory has a slightly different climate than the older provinces, the winter being colder, the thermometer sinking to 40 degrees below zero, but the universal testimony of the settlers is, that even with this degree of cold, which is accompanied by a brighter and a drier atmosphere than the eastern part of the continent, is that the sensation of cold is no greater than in Ontario. During the winter the greatest drawbacks are the sudden storms of wind and snow, called by the settlers "Blizzards," and during the spring the frosts. The snow goes away and ploughing begins some years as early as the 1st of April, but generally not until after the 15th, the crops are harvested in August, the long sunny days of summer bringing vegetation to a rapid maturity. The buffaloes winter in thousands on the immense prairies of the Canadian North-West, the half-breeds and the Indians camp out in the open plains, during the whole of the winter, with no shelter but a buffalo skin tent and robes. When I was there in the middle of October, I slept in a tent for ten nights and felt no inconvenience from cold or anything else.

SOIL AND PRODUCTIONS.

Such a vast tract of land as Canada must necessarily contain a great variety of soil. The surface soil varies from light sand to heavy loam, a medium fertile loam predominating, with generally a clay subsoil. The great wealth of the Dominion of Canada undoubtedly is in her soil. Although only a new country as compared with others, she is already well known as a great meat and corn-producing country. There is not, I believe, a more contented man in the world than the owner of this soil; he may not have command of as much capital as some English farmers, nor does he keep his land in such a high state of cultivation, yet the land he works is his own, his taxes are light, and as a rule he is a happy and independent man. In a new country like Canada it would be absurd to expect the farming to be carried on in as scientific a manner as in England; the land is so abundant a greater breadth is cultivated in proportion to the population in what an English farmer would consider a rough sort of way. It speaks well for the character of the soil and climate that under such adverse circumstances such excellent crops are obtained: in too many instances the land is merely scratched over. The general excellence of the soil, and other favourable conditions for feeding all kinds of stock which prevail in the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and the Eastern Townships, together with the immense areas available, I think leave no room to doubt that Canada in the near future is capable of supplying us with many more cattle and sheep than she is now doing. It is not much more than five years since the Canadian farmers looked upon wheat as being their chief production: to-day the growing of beef for England is their first consideration, wheat only taking second place. As this implies a complete change in the cropping of the farms, the Canadian farmer of the future will have to practice

what will be to him a new system of farming. This change has not come a bit too soon; in fact, some of the worn-out lands of Ontario have long been calling for such a change. Some of you may ask—"Why is this change necessary?" I reply, Simply because the farmers have been cropping their land year after year without applying any manure, and have found out that their crops are not so good as they used to be when the land was new and fresh. Rather than change their system, and apply more manure to their land, they are selling their farms and going west to Manitoba, where they can secure more fresh land, and continue the kind of farming which they have practiced all their lives. It seems that land that refuses to produce a fair crop of wheat for the tenth or fifteenth successive season, is considered by American farmers as no longer worthy of being cultivated. There are many farmers in England paying as much every year in rent and taxes as would purchase them the freehold of a farm in these old provinces of Canada, where they could very nearly carry on the same system of farming as they had been used to at home; the crops are much the same as they had been in the habit of producing; with a few exceptions, the style of farm work varies but little; they would have a free education for their children and other home comforts. It is to these farms that I recommend a man with a young family and capital to go to rather than to the new settled districts, where he would have to exchange the conditions of a very old and thickly-populated country for one that is entirely new; he would therefore have to make up his mind to rough it, which I think is more suited to the young man without a family. Good well cleared farms can be bought in any of these old provinces of Canada; indeed, I was astonished to find so many to sell. The question that naturally arises is—"Why are these farms to sell?" The explanation as near as I could make out is this: (1) Many of the farmers who have done well and made money have brought up their sons as lawyers, doctors or merchants (the great number of colleges and other means of higher education have encouraged this); in course of time the farm is sold for the want of some one to work it. (2) Another class of which I am afraid there are too many in Canada, who have bought a farm and have too little capital to carry it on successfully. With the heavy interest the farmer has to pay on the mortgage, and want of capital, he finds it difficult to make all ends meet; this makes him ready to sell his farm at any time, if he can get a good price, much in the same way as a farmer in England would sell any of his stock. Then, again, during the last few years, that is since the "Manitoba fever" set in, many farmers in the older parts of the Dominion are ready to sell off to settle in Manitoba, in order to obtain a larger field than the old homestead for the settlement of their sons. It thus happens that farms are often for sale, which would especially suit a farmer from here, on which his previous habits of life have adapted him to work. The crops grown in the old provinces are the same as we have here, with the exception of Indian corn. Wheat seems most in favour, at least on the better soils; it yields on an average about 20 bushels per acre, the market value of which in Toronto last September was 4s. 6d. per bushel, at which price an average crop of wheat would be worth £1 10s. per acre. Oats are generally a very poor sample, the hot days of summer bringing them forward too rapidly, they very seldom weigh more than thirty-four pounds per bushel, and yield about 50 bushels per acre, which were selling in Toronto last September for 1s. 4d. per bushel, so that an average crop would be worth £3 6s. 8d. per acre. Barley is generally a good sample, although not so good as we can grow here, the average yield being about 30 bushels per acre, which were selling in Toronto at 2s. 4d. per bushel, so that an average crop of barley would be worth about £3 10s. per acre. Barley seldom weighs more than 50 lbs. per bushel. Turnips are not grown very extensively, although, except in a very dry season, they grow pretty well; and although the farmers in Canada appear not to recognize the fact, there can be no doubt that more extensive turnip culture would be beneficial to the farming interests of Canada. One of the main hindrances to the more extensive cultivation of turnips is the amount of manual labour they require. Potatoes grow well, and so do peas, of which I saw some excellent samples. I saw a large number of Colorado potato beetles upon some potatoes: they did not seem to have done much harm, as potatoes were an

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excellent crop; the farmer had dressed them twice with Paris green while the potatoes were young. The soil in Manitoba is a black mould, resting on a very retentive clay sub-soil; the depth of this black earth varies from 12 inches to 3 feet; when it is worked in a proper condition it becomes as fine as powder, but if worked when wet it becomes lumpy and hard, more like clay than anything else. Chemical analysis of this soil have been made, and the results establish that the soil in Manitoba is among the richest in the world. But the best analysis of the quality of the soil is when we find that under such indifferent farming such excellent crops are grown. Near to Portage-la-Prairie, about 60 miles west of Winnipeg, I saw a field which had grown 30 crops of wheat in succession without any manure, the last crop having yielded 35 bushels per acre; the owner was ploughing this field for the thirty-first time, and still did not consider it necessary to plough more than five inches deep, although he had quite two feet of soil to work upon. In some of the oldest settlements near to Winnipeg, I saw land that had grown crops of wheat for 50 years without manure, but that it was beginning to feel the effects of this rough handling was very plain. West of Winnipeg there are thousands of acres of rich agricultural lands lying waste, unbroken by spade or plough, held by land speculators. Some of these probably would sell for a reasonable profit, but the greater part ask exorbitant prices which must prevent the settlement of those the most desirable parts. Then again, large tracts in Manitoba are set apart for reservations of various kinds; for instance, there are several townships for Indians and 500,000 acres for the Mennonites. I think these reservations must very seriously prevent the settlement of the country. Land within 50 miles of Winnipeg can be bought for 8s. to 30s. per acre, according to location and other circumstances. A great number of these farms are within marketable distance of Winnipeg. The latest regulations issued by the Canadian Government give notice that all Government lands in Manitoba shall be sold at from 4s. to 20s. per acre according to the distance it is from the proposed railway, certain portions of which are open for free grants and pre-emptions of 160 acres each. I was as far as Rapid City, on the Little Saskatchewan, 160 miles west of Winnipeg, and found that all the desirable lands open for free homesteads had been taken up as far as there, so that anyone going to Manitoba or the North-West with the intention of taking a free homestead, would have to go west of Rapid City; not that any intending settler need be in the least alarmed, for there are millions of acres of splendid land west of this. The rush of settlers to the neighborhood of Little Saskatchewan valley has been astonishing, and yet by far the greater majority that I spoke to were perfectly satisfied with the soil and climate of their new home. Rapid City, which in the middle of October was only five months old, will be, I suppose, the youngest city in the world; it then contained 22 houses—rather substantial log structures—with others going up on all sides. A few hundred yards down the river was the frame of a new flour mill, for which the machinery was on the way. The prairie land of Manitoba is to a great extent a treeless expanse; there are, however, some fine woods along the rivers; trees also when planted and protected from the prairie fires, have been found to grow with great rapidity; still, I am afraid that the scarcity of timber will be felt by the settlers until the railways open up means to get it from the more distant parts. Wheat is the crop for which the soil seems especially adapted; it is of a very hard and flinty nature, being very favourable to the new process of making flour; it commonly attains a weight of from 60 to 63 lbs. per bushel—the average yield per acre is 25 bushels—but I may say that much larger yields per acre are common. Some of the farms which are rather better managed yield as far as 35 and 40 bushels per acre. The value of wheat in Winnipeg in September was 2s. 9d. per bushel, so that an average crop of wheat would be worth £3 8s. 9d. per acre. The cost, according to the best evidence I could procure, for growing an acre of wheat in Manitoba is—ploughing, 6s.; harrowing, 6s.; seed and sowing, 7s.; harvesting and thrashing, 14s.; total, 33s. per acre, which, being nearly the only outlay, would leave a profit of £1 15s. 7d. per acre. The straw is of no value, as it is all burned after being thrashed. The average yield of oats is about 30 bushels; the quality is not good, being

much the same as are grown in Ontario, the weight not averaging more than 34 lbs to the bushel. Barley is a fair sample, the average yield being about 30 bushels per acre, the weight from 48 to 50 lbs. per bushel. Potatoes yield a good crop without almost any culture, of which I saw many splendid samples. The exhibits of the agricultural products at the Dominion Exhibition at Ottawa from Manitoba were the strongest possible proof of the wonderful fertility and productiveness of the soil. You will have noticed that the average yields of wheat that I have given are much less than ours at home; nevertheless, with this low yield the American farmer can not only compete with us, but even beat us in our own market. Why is this? The answer which first presents itself is the enormous difference of rent, but this difference is more than balanced by the transportation from America to the English market. The real advantage which they have over us is the cheapness of the cultivation, for while the American soil gets no manure and yet grows an average crop, you all know too well the English farmer must apply a heavy quantity of costly manure, year after year, if he expects to have an average crop. In the prairie land in Manitoba and the Canadian North-West a plough may be run through the soil for miles in a straight line without encountering a stone, a tree, or a hill, a feature to which the old provinces of Canada or England do not offer the faintest approach. All the ordinary fruit, such as currants and strawberries, do well, but apples have not been successfully cultivated. But the few trials that have been made seem to be insufficient to establish whether the climate is adapted for them or not. The grass hoppers which visit Manitoba at uncertain intervals are the greatest drawbacks which the country has to contend against. It appears, from what I was able to learn, and I took pains to gain trustworthy information from the oldest settlers, that their ravages are generally partial—some may suffer while others escape. They first appeared in 1818, six years after the first settler took up his abode in Manitoba. They did not do much harm in that year, but in 1819 they destroyed all the crops. They did not, however, appear again for 46 years, and did no harm until 1863, when they destroyed the entire crop of the settlement. There can be no doubt that these pests have been the curse of the country, but it seems to be the opinion of the oldest settlers that they will not be visited by them to any great extent for a few years, and by that time the greater number of settlers will have a tendency to restrict their destruction. One fact is perhaps worthy of notice—that a total destruction of crops has only taken place six times within 59 years. The mosquitoes are also another great pest to the settlers in Manitoba, for two months in summer especially, to any one who has not been used to them.

STOCK.

In addition to grain growing, stock rearing is largely carried on in the old provinces of Canada. Formerly, there was only the local and American markets open to the Canadian stock-breeder; this is now no longer the case, thousands of cattle are shipped to England each year. Until this market was opened out very little attention had been paid to stock raising by the Canadian farmer. The advance in price offered for the better class of cattle fit for exportation to England has done a great deal to strengthen and spread a desire for better bred sires. The demand for shorthorn bulls is greater at the present day than it has ever before been since the introduction of shorthorns into Canada. There are a great variety in the cattle of Canada; many are, as a rule, too big boned, and coarse in quality; but it is only fair to state that a very creditable percentage of the cattle I have seen display both moderate size and good quality. Shorthorns are most numerous, but there are a few Devons and Galloways and other breeds. Cows are worth from £5 to £12 per head, horses from £15 to £35, sheep from 12s. to 30s. Mr. Cochrane's shorthorn herd in the Eastern Townships and that at Bow Park, in Ontario, furnish very prominent examples of what may be done in cattle rearing, and, I think, give sufficient proof that shorthorns do well in Canada. The horses are small, but hardy, tractable animals. At first sight you very much undervalue their good qualities; it is not until you come to drive them forty miles every day for a week together that you find out their great endurance and suitableness for

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their native country. The same causes which make Canada so suitable for the growth of cattle, adapt it for sheep; they require to be well cared for in winter; sheds with low roofs are generally provided for them. There are very few cattle in Manitoba, the farmers, as yet, nearly giving their whole attention to the growing of grain; but that cattle thrive and grow fat on prairie grass, the few that we saw were sufficient proof. Oxen are extensively used in Manitoba for draught purposes; I was astonished to see in what excellent condition most of them were, some of them quite up to showyard trim, and yet these cattle never get a bit of anything else to eat but prairie grass. Some parts of the prairie of the North-West are not suitable for sheep on account of the grass which grows there called "Spear Grass," which enters the wool and skin of the sheep; in other parts where this grass does not grow they do well. One of the farmers in Manitoba had a very fair herd of 70 cattle; during the winter they had been kept in very rough open sheds quite exposed to the weather. When I questioned him as to whether he considered this sufficient shelter for winter, he replied that he found them do very well, and that he supposed it was on account of the dry atmosphere. This man makes a practice of breaking about eight oxen to work every year, and sells them at from £13 to £20 per head.

COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKETS.

The water communication of the old provinces by means of the lakes and River St. Lawrence, is unsurpassed; the railways also cross the country in all directions, so that the farmer has little trouble in getting his surplus produce taken from his farm. The country is also traversed by large main and side roads; these are not in very good repair, except where gravel can be got easily. Manitoba having been so newly settled there are, as yet, no roads, those that are used as such being simply trails across the prairie; in some places where the surface water cannot get off they are almost impassable. With such roads as these you will easily see the great advantage the Canadian Pacific Railway must be to Manitoba. The branch connecting the waters of Lake Superior with Winnipeg will be completed in three years; 100 miles west of Winnipeg has just been let to contractors, and is to be completed, it is expected, within a year, as it presents no engineering difficulties. In view of the growing interests of the North-West, and the rapidity with which Manitoba is filling up, it is thought probable that a communication may be established from Port Nelson, in Hudson's Bay, to Liverpool. When we consider that Port Nelson is actually nearer to Liverpool than New York, it surely becomes a question of the greatest importance to Manitoba that this route, if possible, should be established. The regular price charged for the carriage of one bushel of wheat from Winnipeg to Montreal is fifteenpence. It is, however, calculated that when the branch of the Canadian Pacific Railway, before mentioned, is completed, a bushel of wheat may be taken between Winnipeg and Montreal for one shilling, and from there to Liverpool for eightpence a bushel more! Farmers in Manitoba state that the cost of raising wheat and delivering it at Winnipeg does not exceed 2s. 4d. per bushel. We shall thus have wheat from Manitoba on the wharves at Liverpool at a cost to the producer, including all charges for transport, of 4s. a bushel, or 32s. per quarter. There cannot be a question that the farmer can grow wheat in Manitoba, and deliver it in Winnipeg for 2s. 4d. per bushel, while the figures of transportation are based on present prices. Very little wheat is yet exported from Manitoba, it being nearly all consumed by the new emigrants; but by the time that there is a surplus for exportation there will be a railway outlet by the Canadian Pacific.

EDUCATION.

It is fancied that because a country is young it must necessarily be wanting in many of the surroundings of civilization. A more mistaken idea could not be entertained, at least with regard to the old provinces of Canada. In the Province of Ontario alone, with a population of two millions, there are about 5,000 public schools.

The system is very much the same as we have here, the country being divided into school sections of a suitable extent for one school, in which trustees are elected to manage its school affairs. The necessary funds are raised, partly by a tax upon the ratepayers and partly by the Government. As a rule no fees are charged, the schools being absolutely free. In Manitoba the Government have reserved two sections in every township, the proceeds of which as sold are to be applied to the establishment of schools; therefore, as fast as settlement progresses schools will be provided.

WAGES AND WORK.

The depression in trade which has affected so large a portion of the world has been felt in Canada, and has very much lowered the rate of wages. In the old provinces labourers' wages may be stated to be from 3s. 6d. to 4s. per day, without board, and from £2 to £3 per month, with board. There being very little work during winter, wages fall very considerably. Anyone going to Manitoba with the intention of finding employment on the farms should remember that it is only a new country, and the demand for farm labour limited, and necessarily confined to the summer months. This demand will, however, increase as capital increases, and as the country becomes more developed by railroads and other means of communication. The greater part of all who go to Manitoba procure a homestead or purchase a piece of land. Farm labourers in Manitoba earn £4 to £5 a month, with board, but less in winter.

CONCLUSION.

During a visit of only two months to such an immense country as Canada you cannot expect any one to acquire a perfect insight into the prosperity of the people. As far as I observed, things appear to be going on pretty smoothly with the farmers there. One farmer, who when a boy had worked at some of the farms in this neighborhood, and went to Canada 27 years ago, now owns a well cleared farm of 200 acres, worth at this time £1,500. This is not a solitary case; there are hundreds of farmers in Canada who commenced with nothing, and now own good farms of their own. Above all things an emigrant should have good health, and none should go who have not made up their minds to work; the idle had better stay at home. The emigrant at present most required in the old provinces are those who have sufficient capital to enable them to settle upon a cleared farm. Those with means, and who intend to purchase a farm, should not close a bargain until they have had a good look round, indeed a good plan is to rent a farm for a year or two, to see how you like the country. Another matter that pressed itself on my attention in Manitoba, was the apparent absence of fresh water in many extensive districts, but it has been found that there are few districts where wells of ordinary depth do not succeed in finding ample supplies of water. Prairie fires are another drawback from which settlers in the prairies of Manitoba are liable to suffer. The chief peculiar advantage of Manitoba as a field for settlement is the combination of prairie and woodland, the full advantage of which I should think can only be fully appreciated by those who have had practical experience in clearing off and cultivating a new farm in a thickly wooded country; that the existence of great areas of treeless prairies is a disadvantage there can be no doubt. This disadvantage is more than balanced by the ease with which the land is cultivated in comparison with heavy wooded lands. When a man is doing well at home and sees his way to continue to do so, great caution should be used in advising him to emigrate; but this I do say, that there are many farmers in England, especially those with little capital, who could improve their position by going to Manitoba, if they are not unwilling to undergo the hardships necessary to those who live in new countries. What capital would be required with which to commence to farm in Manitoba is very frequently asked. The answer entirely depends upon surrounding circumstances. A young man without family, willing to work and save and rough it, would secure himself a home in a few years, without almost any capital; he would have to work for other parties part of the time, and

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then hire help again in turn to assist in putting up a small house. After that he could plough and fence in a few acres for a crop in the following spring, and thus in a short time he might become comparatively an independent farmer. A farmer with a family desiring to start with a fair amount of comfort should not have less than £300; on the other hand, a man may take considerable capital and start in a larger way. I have endeavoured to give you a fair idea of the advantages and disadvantages of the Dominion of Canada. I have tried not to hold out any visionary inducements for any one to go there, but rather to give a fair unvarnished account of the country as it presented itself to me. I left Quebec on my return home on Saturday, November 15th, and after a very pleasant voyage landed in Liverpool on Monday evening, November 24th, with many interesting and pleasant recollections of my travels, and unbounded faith in the future of the great North-West of Canada. In conclusion, I wish to express my grateful thanks to the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, and many others, who gave me every opportunity for gaining information.

At the conclusion of the reading of the paper,

The Chairman said he was sure they were all greatly indebted and obliged to Mr. Hutchinson for his long and able paper. He was sure it contained a vast amount of information, and he had no doubt that they, as well as intending emigrants, would profit by it. He dare say Mr. Hutchinson would be glad to answer any questions that any one might choose to put to him with respect to this paper.

Mr. Jameson said he must say that if he had omitted to attend the meeting that day to hear the excellent paper read by Mr. Hutchinson, he should have lost a great deal of edification and instruction. (Hear, hear.) Mr. Hutchinson had handled the subject with a very great degree of judgment and accuracy, which, coming from the quarter it did, was a very high compliment indeed to their worthy friend Mr. Hutchinson. He had gone over all the subjects on which he rose to treat, and every subject he had touched upon seemed of itself to carry with it the conviction of practicability and truth. (Hear, hear.) Seeing that they were all of them pleased with it, it was with the greatest pleasure that he rose to propose a vote of thanks to Mr. Hutchinson for the admirable paper he had read. (Applause.)

Mr. Jas. Atkinson seconded the motion, and said he certainly must say that he was very much gratified and pleased with the report that Mr. Hutchinson had laid before the meeting. He quite agreed with Mr. Jameson, that the statements made carried a conviction of their truth.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. Hutchinson, in acknowledging the compliment, said if they had derived pleasure from the paper he had read, what must it have been for him to have been to Canada and have seen it all? He was very much pleased with the kind manner in which the paper had been received.

REPORT OF MR. ROBERT PEAT, THE DELEGATE FROM SILLOTH, CUMBERLAND.

At a large meeting of farmers and others, held at the Queen's Hotel Assembly Rooms, Silloth, on the 17th December, 1879, Mr. Robert Peat, the Secretary of the Holme Cultram Agricultural Society, presented his report to his constituents.

Mr. Peat said:—I do not by any means intend to go into a long detail of what I have seen or where I have been. I will endeavour to explain to you, as plainly and as briefly as possible, the productions of the country, the nature of the soil, the habits of the people, and the climate, so far as I had the opportunity of judging; but before going on to speak of the land and labour question, I should like to say a few words on the exhibition at Ottawa, which I visited for four days, and from it you had a good opportunity of judging the whole of the products, both horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, poultry, fruits, furs and vegetables; in fact, there was from a bull which cost 2,500 guineas, down to pins and needles, but as this meeting is more in the agricultural line, I will keep more to it. The show of entire strong horses was

considered good for the country, but not to be compared with what we have in England, being wanting in both bone and ham, and, generally speaking, too light on the ribs. The show of entire thoroughbreds was poor, but the roadsters and trotting horses, for which the country is so famous, was very good, 16 or 17 being forward above four years old. There was also a good show of entries under four years old. Instead of having them trotted out as we have in this country, they give them the length of the cord and let them go round, similar to breaking in horses, but for all this they are very tractable, and the groom, almost by the crack of his whip, can make them go down on their knees, and then stand up on their hind legs. Among the young geldings or fillies were to be found some good specimens, but as a general rule not up to our show yard horses in England.

There is also shown in harness two horses in one buggy, but here the style of going is taken into consideration as well as the speed; but for the one horse buggy they judge entirely by speed. The rate at which they go, and the short space in which they can be pulled up and turned round, is a great treat for an Englishman to see.

There were some good shorthorns forward. The special prizes for the best six shorthorns, one male and five females, belonging to one herd, were the best I ever saw together. They were from the Bow Park herd, and I am perfectly satisfied they were fit to compete in any show-yard in England. The whole herd numbered 400. They are managed by Mr. John Hope, from Arkleby, near Aspatria, with whom I stayed two nights, and had a thorough inspection of the whole lot. They are all in splendid condition, looking remarkably healthy and well, and I don't think I am far wrong in saying they are the finest herd of shorthorns in the world. The Galloways were a very fair show, but wanting in both condition and quality. Sheep were a pretty good show, but far from up to show-yard condition; but I was told that any animal overfed would be disqualified from showing. The show of pigs was very good. In addition to the classes of cattle I have mentioned, there were Alderneys, Jerseys, Herefords, Devons, Ayrshires, &c., &c. These are some of the specimens of corn which were exhibited there, but they were grown in a country I did not visit. The show of fruit was splendid, and anyone that has not seen for himself can have but a poor idea of what Canada can grow—apples, pears, peaches, plums, apricots and tomatoes and pumpkins, all grow to perfection and ripen in the open air with very little care or cultivation; and so much as 10 tons of grapes are sometimes grown upon one acre of land. The thought must at once strike you that they are very cheap, and so they are; in England they are luxuries which can only be indulged in by the higher classes, whereas in Canada they are within the purchase of the labouring man. Grapes were selling at 3 cents per lb., and peaches 1 dollar per bushel.

After spending four days at the exhibition at Ottawa, we met at the office of the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, to determine which route we were going to take, being in no way biased by him, but choosing for ourselves. Being very much struck by the roots at the exhibition, the apparent richness of the soil, and, above all, hearing so many people talking about the country, I determined to visit Manitoba, so we left that night by Toronto, Sarnia, Lake Huron and Lake Superior to Duluth, and thence by rail to Winnipeg, and next morning started out for a few days of prairie life.

SOIL.

Contrary to my expectations, instead of finding a wet swamp, as I pictured in my own mind, I found a deep, black, loamy soil, varying in depth from 2½ feet to 3½ feet; and in some places where it has been cut through on the banks of some rivers, it has been found to the depth of 10 to 12 feet, and is specially adapted for the growing of wheat, being preferred by the millers to almost any other on account of it being so dry and thin-skinned. It has been known to grow wheat for many years in succession without manure. If the report was correct, the soil I have sent down to you has grown wheat for 30 years, and the last crop yielded 35 bushels per acre.

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When first put into the box it was as black as my coat; he was ploughing it again when I saw him for the next spring crop, and giving no manure, with a pair of very poor horses, but said he could easily plough two acres per day. No doubt but that a good many of you, like myself, will ask the question—but how long will it last? That is a question that is left for the future, but there is one thing certain, that no manure is required at present. One of my friends who was along with me for some time, travelling across a field of 180 acres, came to a place where the wheat had gone down, and on making enquiries, he was told it was where some few of his cattle had got a little straw. Some people attribute the richness of the soil to the droppings from birds and animals, and the constant accumulation of ashes from the prairie fires. During my tour I met a gentleman who had travelled all over the world, and he said he had seen no land more fertile than that at High Bluff (*see Map*). I have travelled over that country from Portage la Prairie to the Pombina Mountains, and so little difference is there of the soil, that anyone but a minute observer would fail to make much distinction, except near Morris, where there is a good deal more soil. My friends who went further west than Portage la Prairie, to the Saskatchewan Valley, on their return reported the land much of the same nature, but thought it would not stand cropping so well as some to which I have alluded—High Bluff.

PREPARING THE GROUND FOR WHEAT.

This huge mass of black soil, which extends as far as the eye can see, when being prepared for the first crop of wheat, is ploughed about two inches deep, in June or July—this is considered the best time for so doing—for, with the heat of the sun and the moisture of the soil, it soon destroys the green sod. After allowing sufficient time for the grass to decay, the furrow is turned back again a very little deeper, and next spring sown with wheat. Some of you might possibly be struck with the light ploughing, but experience is the best teacher, and it has been found that this way is the best. A large and influential farmer, not far from Morris, farming 18,000 acres, did not intend to plough his a second time, but to break it up with a heavy barrow; this has not yet been tried, so that I cannot speak as to its results. For breaking up, the prairie oxen or mules are preferred, for the sod is very tough and requires great force to break it, and horses taken out from Ontario to Manitoba do not at first do well until they become accustomed to the change of food, and more especially if hard worked. A pair of good oxen will break one and a half acres per day.

PRODUCTIONS.

Wheat may be said to be the chief production for which Manitoba is so much famed, although oats, barley, potatoes, pumpkins, and cabbage are all grown, and produce good crops. Turnips are very little known, but I saw a small piece of land, near to Portage la Prairie, on which had been thrown a handful or two of seed, and no trouble taken afterwards to pull weeds or to knock out any of the turnips, and judging from these I think they might be grown with a little care and good cultivation. Wheat is sown from the 15th of April to the 12th of May, and reaped in the end of August; barley from the 24th of May to the 8th of June; oats about the 20th of May. The following is the quantity of seed sown:—One bushel and three pecks to two bushels wheat; oats, two bushels per acre; barley, two bushels per acre.

It was rather a difficult matter for us to arrive at the proper average of grain per acre; any party from whom we asked the question was always ready enough to tell us, but you all know it is the case in England that stories of this kind do not always tally, so it is the same in Manitoba. After asking several persons, I arrived at the following conclusions:—Wheat, 25 to 30 bushels per acre; barley, 37 to 40 bushels per acre; oats, 55 to 60 bushels per acre. We did not see any of the corn growing, so we had to be guided by what was told to us; but we could still see the stubble, and from that it was evident that the crops had been good.

Small fruit, such as currants, strawberries and raspberries are found here; but, so far, they have failed to grow the apple to perfection, the reason attributed being that the frost was too severe before the sap had left the tree.

Trees are also very scarce on the prairie, but are found growing along the banks of the rivers. I think the soil would be suitable for growing trees, except for the destruction by prairie fires.

Cattle do well, but there is a grass called spear grass which is injurious to sheep. Prairie grass grows from three to six feet high, and, in places where it is cut for hay, yields from three to four tons per acre; it is rough in appearance when made into hay, but has a very sweet smell. Horses are very fond of it and do well on the food. It is worth, in Winnipeg, 28s. per ton.

CLIMATE.

There is no doubt but that the winters are more severe and longer than ours, but we could not get any of the natives to say that they were more severe than in Ontario. Doubtless it is very healthy, diseases of any kind being as yet very little known. But I will speak more about the climate further on.

COMMUNICATION AND MARKETS.

Some of you might be inclined to say, what is the good of growing this wheat where there is no railway or market to take it to. I own that there is no railway communication any further than Winnipeg, but the Canadian Pacific Railway is in construction from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg, and as soon as it is constructed new branch lines will spring up; and my opinion is that there is a brilliant future for Manitoba. As it is now you can easily get quit of your corn. It now costs from Portage-la-Prairie to Winnipeg 6d. per 100 lbs., and 17d. to Montreal per bushel, but when the new railway is opened, it is calculated to be brought direct to Montreal for 15 to 25 cents—in English money 7½d. to 1s. 0½d.—per bushel. Added to this will be 16 cents, or 8d. per bushel, from Montreal to Liverpool. I will now tell you, as near as I can, how much it will cost to put in an acre of wheat, so that, having these statements before you, you can reckon for yourselves the question at which we all aim, will it pay?

Ploughing	\$1 50	6s. 3d.
Harrowing	1 50	6s. 3d.
Seed	1 50	6s. 3d.
Cutting	}	3 25
Binding		
Thrashing ...		
Carrying		
Sowing.....	0 25	1s. 0½d.
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	\$8 00	33s. 4d.

This is for the second crop; for the first crop you must add \$3.00, or in English money 12s. 6d. No difficulty was found in getting labour; £40 for twelve months, and Indian labour 2s. per day with board.

WHEN TO GO TO MANITOBA.

Those who have any thoughts of going out to make their homes on this vast prairie, should give this question due consideration. I should strongly advise them not to go at the fall of the year, for the winter might set in severely before they had got their hut built, and cause them to suffer more from the cold than is necessary by taking the usual precautions. Early in the spring the roads are bad; so we were told that July, August and September are considered the best months, so that you

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can build your hut and make the necessary preparations for the forthcoming winter. Those who can afford to do so, I would recommend to go in the fall, and spend their winter in Winnipeg. They could then form a good opinion of what the winter is like; and I think three months spent in looking around would not be wasted. Any one wishing to know "how to go," I will at any time be glad to give him or them my opinion.

LAND—AT WHAT PRICE IT CAN BE PROCURED.

This black line is the supposed line of railway, and the nearer you buy land to it the higher price you have to pay. A distance of five miles each side of this assumed railway line, to be called "Belt A," can be bought at \$5, or in English money about £1 per acre. A belt of fifteen miles either side of the assumed line of railway, adjoining Belt A, to be called "Belt B," can be bought at \$4, or in English money 16s. 8d. per acre. A belt of twenty miles on either side of the railway, adjoining Belt B, to be called "Belt C," can be bought at \$3, or in English money 12s. 6d. per acre. A belt of thirty miles either side of the railway, adjoining Belt C, to be called "Belt D," can be bought at \$2, or in English money 8s. 4d. And so on, further from the railway the less you pay per acre. There are also free grant lands of 160 acres, and pre-emption lands, which would take me too long to talk about, but I will explain it to any one after the meeting. There are two sections in each township of six miles square, reserved for school purposes.

SYSTEM OF SURVEYING.

The system of surveys, or of laying out the land in Manitoba, is most simple, and easily understood. Every township is exactly six miles square, and this township is divided into sections of one mile square, or 640 acres each. These sections are again subdivided into half-sections of 320 acres each, quarter-sections of 160 acres each. The townships start from a base line, which is the international boundary line. The ranges of the townships, which are marked on the map in Roman characters, run east and west from the meridian line, and the numbers of the townships marked on the map in common figures run north from the boundary or first base line. From this simple method of arrangement any section or township can be instantly described. For instance, you wanted to find your land in range V., Township 8, by this simple method you have it at once.

Now comes the other side of the story. No matter how healthy may be the climate, how rich and fruitful may be the soil, there are few countries but what have their drawbacks, and this has fallen to the lot of Manitoba in the shape of scarcity of wood and water. Water can be got for sinking wells. In some parts it can be got from 12 to 16 feet; in others you have to sink deeper. Coal is reported to abound in the Saskatchewan Valley; and if this should be the case the former obstacle will soon be overcome. But besides these two already mentioned there is also the plague of grasshoppers, and the prairie fires. The settlers have reason to believe that these will become extinct as the settlements increase, there having been no grasshoppers in the province since 1875. By taking due precaution the ravages of the prairie fires can be guarded against, by ploughing round your buildings and stacks. These fires take place at the fall of the year, and they have been known to travel at the rate of 13 miles per hour; but the more the country becomes settled the less these fires may be dreaded. I have seen the prairie burned for miles as far as you could see, and some stacks standing in the centre take no harm.

After leaving Manitoba, we proceeded to Toronto by way of Chicago, Detroit and Port Huron, and after spending the Sunday in Toronto we started for Bow Park in the Province of Ontario; but as the frost and snow made their appearance we did not see so much of it. The places I visited were Brantford, London, Woodstock, Guelph, and the neighborhood of Paris, and one or two farms in the Eastern Townships, near to Sherbrooke. At Bow Park the soil is of a fine sandy loam, lying along the side of the Grand River, three miles from Brantford. No regular system of

cropping is followed, and the cattle of which I spoke before are in a great measure soiled in the house. They were allowed to go out about three hours during the day when I was there, and at night in summer. The whole herd numbers 400, and any animal about the place is always open for sale. I have here a catalogue which I will lend to anyone that is interested in the breeding of valuable shorthorns. A very correct account is kept when they were imported, who was the breeder, and where they were from. I was rather struck at seeing a cow bred by a gentleman whom a good many of you know, and that is Mr. R. B. Hetherington, formerly of Park Head. The buildings are of the most modern construction, and all built with wood. Every animal is allowed a loose box, which varies in size according to the size of the animal. Every precaution is taken against fire, not even the managers are allowed to smoke in any of the buildings. Turnips are not much grown, but mangolds do well, and form the principal root crop for the cattle. Western grass is much used among the stock, and sometimes grows to the height of 12 feet, weighing when green 40 tons per acre. It is allowed to stand out in the field all winter, and is brought in for the cattle as it is required. It was here that I saw two crops grown in one season; a field over which I travelled had grown a good crop of oats, at the rate of 70 bushels per acre; it was then ploughed out and sown with rape, which was stunted when I was there. Labour was plentiful at £35, with board, for twelve months, and during the harvest extra hands can be got at 4s. 2d. per day. Sheep were not kept in large numbers, but do very well, especially Cotswolds. A herd of Berkshire pigs is kept; also Clydesdale horses. The whole extent of the farm is 900 acres, and is owned by a company which goes under the name of the Canada West Farm Stock Association. Its principal aim is to improve the breed of good shorthorned cattle. The price of land in this part of the country is about £15 per acre, with good dwelling house and suitable buildings.

From Brantford I went to Woodstock, in the County of Oxford. This is altogether a dairy county, having a large cheese factory near to where I was. Turnips grow well here at the rate of 600 to 700 bushels per acre. These were sown about the 15th of June, and this season of the year was preferred to any time before then on account of their keeping so much better. Oats were sown about the 20th of April, and are ready for cutting about the end of August. The taxes were very light, the principal of which is for school-rates. The gentleman with whom I had conversation was assessed at £1,250, and paid for rates £5 12s. 6d., and if he thought of letting his farm, would expect to get about 3½ or 4 dollars, or in English money 14s. 7d. or 16s. 8d. per acre rent. Land could be bought in this neighbourhood from £5 to £13 per acre.

From Woodstock I went to London, and it was here, in my own opinion, that I saw the best land while in Ontario; it could be bought for from £10 to £18 per acre. The soil was a sandy loam, with a mixture of gravel and clay subsoil; grows wheat, oats, turnips, and mangolds remarkably well. The turnips were sown about the 15th of June, preferring to sow them on the flat instead of stitching, as we do in England. This was on account of the hot weather. The gentleman whom I interviewed here was farming land at 3 dollars, or in English money 12s. 6d. He was from the south of England.

From London I went to Guelph. The land here is of a free loamy nature, with gravel subsoil. It grows oats, wheat, barley, turnips, and can be bought from £11 to £14 per acre, according to the buildings. Labour is plentiful; for a good man they pay £35 per 12 months. Unlike many of the Canadian farmers, the gentleman I met here had a regular system of cropping. He followed out ploughing in the spring and taking a crop of peas. If his land was clean he would then take a crop of fall wheat (with manure), after wheat oats, after oats turnips, and then sow down with a crop of spring wheat, mow one year and pasture two. He was farming 330 acres, and last year his taxes amounted to 85 dollars, or in English, £18 6s. 8d. He had a good stock of sheep, having imported tups from England. He prefers border Leicesters. I also visited the Agricultural College, or experimental farm. It is owned by Government, the extent of which is 550 acres. (I have here a book which

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gives you full particulars how it is managed, which I shall be glad to lend to any of you who might wish to see it.) It is worked by gentlemen's sons, who have thoughts of entering agricultural pursuits. They work one-half of the day and study the other, so that they have a good chance of combining practice with theory. They receive for their labour, if it is well done, 10 cents per hour, others paid proportionately, according to the workmanship. They receive their tuition free, but pay for board and washing. They have on the farm six different breeds of cattle, five of sheep, ten of poultry, and three of pigs. These in themselves are important advantages for the purpose of instruction.

After leaving Guelph I went down to Sherbrooke, and visited the farm of the Hon. M. H. Cochrane. To those amongst you who are at all interested in the breeding of pedigree shorthorns, the name will at once be familiar, and doubtless some among you will remember the long prices some of his cattle made not so very long ago in England. Even Mr. Thornton, who sold his cattle—which were imported by Mr. Simon Beattie, of Preston Hall, Annan, and landed at Liverpool on the 4th of August, 1877, realized £17,150—could scarcely have dreamed that his sand-glass would have been kept running at the Millesbee sale until 4,300 guineas had been reached for one cow. Mr. Cochrane still has a very valuable herd of shorthorns, numbering about 85. Foremost among the lot is the 10th Duchess of Airedale, from the progeny of which he has sold stock to the value of £27,000, and has still the cow and her heifer calf, and expects her in calf again. She is a beautiful rich roan, splendid level back, and the sweetest head I ever saw; and although ten or eleven years old, she is very healthy, and looks remarkably well.

The whole of the food for the cattle was being cut and mixed with pulped turnips, except the calving cows, and these were getting dry hay. Mr. Cochrane thinks that too many turnips are liable to make them cast their calves. They had also a plentiful supply of water continually in front of them, being sent along by force pumps. In addition to his pedigree stock, he has also feeding a good quantity of bullocks (show marks). He had also a stock of sheep, and preferred Shropshire.

His farm consists of 1,100 acres, 300 of which is permanent pasture, and the other part of the farm is ploughed in the following rotation, viz., oats, roots, wheat or barley, and then hay for two or three years. The best crop of hay is often got the second year, sometimes growing from 3 to 3½ tons per acre. He had grown a splendid crop of turnips, giving him 25 tons per acre. The land was a good deal more stony than some we had seen. Mr. Cochrane had some stone walls on his farm; and we were informed that land could be bought from £5 to £6 per acre. If any of you think of going to Canada, I would advise you to have a look at this part of the country before making your final selection.

As was the case in Manitoba, so it was the same in Ontario. We got various statements of what the land would grow, and how many bushels per acre; but, after making all the enquiries, I arrived at the following conclusions:—

Wheat,	20 to 23 bushels	per acre—60.
Oats	40 " 45 "	(34 lbs.)
Barley	30 " 35 "	(48 lbs.)
Peas	25 " 28 "	---
Potatoes,	125 bushels.	

At the meeting where I was appointed to go out to Canada, one of the party then present seemed to be anxious to know if there were any school boards, so I made good inquiries about them; and as I got my information from one of the members of Parliament, I think you may rely upon its being correct. Three men are appointed as trustees by the rate-payers for three years, but are still eligible for election at the end of that time. If they are in want of money, they apply to the council, and a rate is levied upon the county. It varies a little—a farm of 100 acres will vary from 16s. 8d. to 20s. If you appoint a qualified master, the grant from Government is more; education is compulsory, and no charge for school pence. Poor-houses are not known in Canada.

ROADS.

A council consisting of five is appointed, resembling our local board, to look after the roads in the country. Out of these five, one is appointed called a Pathmaster, and remains in office for twelve months. He sees what repairs the road requires, and the farmers work so many days, according to the value of their farms; a son, assisting his father on a farm, but having no interest in it, is also required to work so many days. If the farmer should be busy, and has not time to devote to the repairs of the roads, he pays so much money to the Pathmaster, and a man is supplied in his place.

CONVEYANCE OF LAND.

The conveyance of land is very cheap, and unless the case is a very difficult one it does not cost more than £2 2s. to £3 3s. The expenses are paid by the vendor, except on mortgage left on the land, and this is paid by the borrower.

CLIMATE.

There is no doubt that the climate of Canada is more to the extreme than ours in England. I have not had sufficient experience to speak feelingly on the subject; but, from what I could learn, the people look forward to the winter more as time for pleasure rather than dread, as we in England are led to suppose. From my own experience it is much superior to ours; instead of the heavy, damp, foggy atmosphere, they have the bright, clear refreshing breeze, and altogether the air seems much purer and lighter.

There is no doubt but some of you will ask the question.—Which place would you advise us to go to, Ontario or Manitoba? To this I should give two answers. Those who contemplate emigrating with a small family, I should advise to stay in Ontario, where plenty of farms may be bought from £5 to £15 per acre, with good dwelling-houses, suitable farm buildings, well watered and fenced: where they will be within a short distance from places of worship and have every means of giving their children a good education. On the other hand, those who make up their minds to "rough it" will find plenty of land in Manitoba at 5 dollars (or, in English money, £1) per acre, a good deal of which is held by land speculators in Winnipeg, but who are always open to sell; and free grants of 160 acres farther west.

PEOPLE.

Whether we went to Manitoba or Ontario, we found the people remarkably civil, kind and hospitable, always willing to give us any assistance we required. In fact, through all my travels I have not met with more kindness and hospitality than I did when in Canada.

WHO SHOULD EMIGRATE?

This is probably the most important practical question of all, but, gentlemen, I wish you to understand that I do not personally advise any of you to go. I have described to you the soil, climate and productions of the country so far as my abilities would allow; and it is for you now to choose for yourselves. It involves the breaking-up of all the old ties and associations of childhood, beginning life afresh in a new country, where everything which surrounds the emigrant will seem new and strange to him at first, but during my tour in Canada I never met with anyone who had lived there that could be induced to come back to England. To those who think of going out they must make up their mind to work. Anyone who goes there with the thought that as soon as he sets his foot on foreign soil he will make his fortune; if there is anyone here with that idea let me impress upon him that he makes a great mistake. Above all things the emigrant should have good health, be stout-hearted, prepared to do anything that comes to hand, and to adapt himself to

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the circumstances of the new country in which his lot is placed. He may have many things to learn and many to unlearn. Anyone who is not willing to attempt this I would advise him to stay at home. He who may make up his mind to go and take the country as he finds it I think in a few years will be amply repaid; and although he would have some little inconveniences to put up with, he is, in a great measure, recompensed by the thought that he is improving his own land, and he can say as Wise Wiff said to his trustee,—

"Never mind, land my own."

In conclusion, I must say a few words regarding the voyage.

To those who wish to go to Canada, either to look after land or for pleasure. Do not let the thought of crossing the Atlantic have anything to do in stopping you, for I assure you it is one of the most pleasant journeys you ever undertook. You have plenty of amusement on the passage. Music, both instrumental and vocal, all the fashionable songs of the day, games of all kinds, a good library, and what is more important than all, the table is in point of variety, cooking, and also attendance, equal to that of the best hotel in England. On reaching Quebec a good many of the passengers by the Allan S.S. "Moravian" felt sorry the journey was finished, and I am glad to say I was one among the party.

REPORT OF MR. THOMAS IRVING, DELEGATE FROM BOWNESS-ON-SOLWAY.

On Monday evening, 1st December last, a meeting was held in the school-room at Bowness to hear a report from Mr. Thomas Irving, who was delegate for the farmers resident in that district. There was a very large attendance. Mr. Tait, of Brackenrigg, was called to the chair, supported by Mr. Donald, of Longeroft; Mr. John Backhouse, Anthorn; Mr. Robert Peat, Silloth (delegate for Abbey Holme); Mr. George Hutchinson, Brougham Castle (delegate for the Penrith Farmers' Club); Mr. W. Williamson, North Plain; Mr. John Wills, Mr. C. Toppin, Mr. John Lawson, Mr. E. L. Irving, Mr. C. Vynne, &c.

Mr. Irving, who was warmly cheered, said he had had a very pleasant trip. Along with several other delegates he journeyed in the Allan Line steamer, "Peruvian," which arrived at Point Lévis on the 21st of September. There was always plenty of amusement on board the steamer, and a voyage across the Atlantic was not such a dreary and weary business as many might imagine it to be; there was nothing to frighten any person about going to Canada. Before speaking of the country he wished to return thanks to Sir John A. Macdonald, the Premier of Canada, for the attention he had shown to the delegates, who were also indebted to the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture; Mr. Hardy, Ontario; Mr. McReany, Mr. D. J. Hay, and other leading men in the Dominion. His journey was confined to the Provinces of Quebec and Ontario, and wherever he went he found the Canadians kind-hearted, hospitable, cheerful, clever, fit to stand by their own.

A Voice: "Chips of the old block?" (Laughter.)

"Quite true, sir," said Mr. Irving, "there is not a more hospitable people on the face of the earth." (Applause.) It was not to be expected that good farming would be witnessed throughout Canada, because many of those holding farms were weavers, miners, tinkers or tailors, who had landed with scarcely a penny a piece, but who had, by perseverance and industry, carved out for themselves happy homes. These men had to clear the land before they could get a crop. The Canadians loved their country; many old men who came over to England with the intention of ending their days went back again. They like the climate of Ontario better than that of England. It was not usually muggy out there, nor did it rain every day, but when it did rain it came down heavy. (Laughter.) He advised intending emigrants to go to Ontario, where a state of things existed much as at home; they would find good

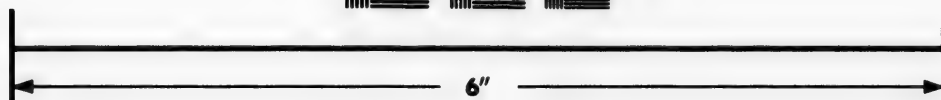
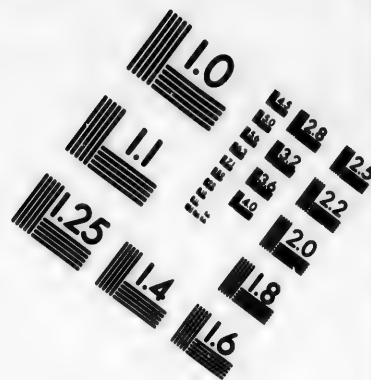
roads, good schools, churches of all denominations, plenty of railway communication—in fact, civilization was quite as far advanced as at Bowness, if not more so. (Laughter.) It would be much better to pay a little more for land there than to go 1,500 miles or so up the country, at the risk of being unable to see a newspaper for twelve months. No doubt Manitoba was a fine district, but let the young people go there and “rough it” for a bit. The school system in Ontario is, in his opinion, perfect. In summer the weather is a little hotter than in England, but there was an absence of that detestable muggy atmosphere so often experienced here. The winter weather is colder than at home, yet it was pleasant. He had seen a good bit of the world, and he had come to the conclusion that there was no place like Canada. There was plenty of shooting and fishing to be had. Now for the journey. From Montreal he went to Ottawa, where, through Mr. Pope, he and others were presented to his Worship the Mayor. The Dominion Show was opened while they had their brief stay here. It was not exactly like one of our agricultural shows. In addition to all kinds of agricultural produce, there was to be seen the very best of every article produced in the Dominion. They had free passes to roam about the show. There was such a display of loyalty at the opening of this show by the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise as he had never seen. There was a magnificent display of stock and farm produce. Cattle of all kinds were there. In showing the horses, speed seemed to be the great desideratum. Roots and vegetables were remarkably well grown; butter and cheese looked well. He mentioned several implements, such as winnowing machines, carts for spreading manure, waggons of a most useful and improved character. The implements were all that could be desired; generally they are of a lighter construction than in England, but they are undoubtedly better. Thirty-five miles from Ottawa he was in a very nice country. Fine land was to be seen along the railway; some of it can be purchased from 10s. to £12 per acre. A good deal of land open for settlements is to be obtained here. Good farms can be rented at from 10s. to 12s. per acre, and farther from the line the price will be reduced. Further inland there were the same appearances of the land being in a good state of cultivation. Very large orchards, with a heavy crop of fruit, were to be seen on all sides. A flying visit was paid to the Falls of Niagara, which he saw lighted up with the electric light. He gave a graphic description of Toronto, and took his audience along to London, where he had an opportunity of visiting another exhibition of the produce of the country. There was a better show of sheep here than at the Dominion Show. Incidentally he might mention that at these shows were the finest gatherings of young ladies he ever saw. (Laughter.) The show buildings are permanent, and our royal show buildings would look small beside them. Short-horns were the cream of the show, some hailing from the renowned herd of Bow Park. Here was a varied collection of implements creditable to any part of the world; amongst the novelties on view was a machine for hatching eggs by electricity. (Laughter.) Driving out a bit he found himself in a splendid farming country. Land can be purchased at from £10 to £20 per acre, and the produce finds a ready market in London. He heard of one farm being let at £1 per acre, the farmer doing well. In the County of Kent they were guided by Mr. McReany. Land here is much cheaper; within five or ten miles of Bothwell the price ranges from £2 to £15. The roads are all kept up by the farmers. In the course of his inspection, he noticed some farmers engaged threshing; machines are generally hired; some go by steam and some by horse power; if the latter, they are not less than of 10-horse power, and farmers generally join to work expeditiously. In the neighbourhood of Chatham—and indeed all around this portion of the country—the land is well suited for green crops, and would be a remunerative investment. In this county he met with a farmer, Mr. Wheeler, who owns 500 acres of fine land, which originally cost him from 10s. to 12s. per acre. There was a large herd of bullocks on this farm. Mr. Wheeler paid £3 10s. per head for them; he thinks they are now worth £7; and expects to sell them for £14 each by the return season. This gentleman belongs to Warwickshire, is a butcher by trade, and arrived in that locality some years ago with nine dollars in his pocket. Now he has a fine lot of sheep besides his cattle. Mr. Irving

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incidentally mentioned that he went out duck shooting; there was a large tract of country, from 5,000 to 6,000 acres, preserved for wild fowl and he had a most excellent bag in a few hours. At Ridgetown he saw a fair local show. This district he considered by far the finest for wheat growing he had yet seen. Indian corn was also extensively grown. In the County of Oxford there was also some fine land. A visit was paid to Bow Park, where the farm buildings are all that could be desired, and kept in the most perfect order; here is to be seen perhaps the finest herd of short-horns in the world. Land round about here is valued at from £10 to £20 per acre. He spoke very highly of the Wellington district, having seen a very fine show of stock in that county. Land could be got at from 20 to 50 dollars per acre. At Huntingford he met with Mr. Donaldson, who belongs to the neighbourhood of Dalston; he has a farm of his own, and occupies a dwelling house of stone and brick of a most substantial character. The land is worth £16 per acre. Mr. Donaldson has been over 30 years there, and his land is in first-class condition. There is a large cheese-making establishment near here as well as an agricultural school. In this county he saw far more stock than in the other counties; there was a splendid crop of turnips, mangolds, &c.; but he was inclined to think they grew by far too much wheat; there seemed to be no system of cropping, yet the farmers were prosperous, making a pile of money. Some of these men would have done well in any country; but others, had they remained at home, would, in all probability, have gone to the wall. Coming to speak of the Counties of Norfolk and Perth, he said there was a splendid farming district here, though the land in Norfolk County was generally light. He met Mr. Livingstone, brother of the celebrated Dr. Livingstone, who had a fine farm there. A new plough, called the rotary, was very much used. A large number of Germans were settled in this immediate district, and they were capital farmers. Mr. Irving thinks the land in the Huron district as good as any in Ontario; farms are well laid out, with beautiful farm-houses, and altogether the district was one very suitable for settlement. At Toronto he met with a Bowness man named Allan, and the announcement that he was doing very successfully was received with applause. There was a lot of fine land in the district between Toronto and Montreal, from £6 to £16 per acre. Grazing farms could be got cheap in this part. Plenty of very good farms could be got in the eastern townships of Quebec by judicious selection, but he preferred the western district from what he had seen. Fruit was grown in enormous quantities. Mr. Irving then proceeded to answer a number of questions put to him by the Committee before leaving. The average size of the farms in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec was from 100 to 200 acres. A farm of average quality could be purchased at from £4 to £18 per acre; and could be rented at about 10s per acre; and it would require from £300 to £400 to stock a 200 acre farm. Taxes are very light. There is really only the school tax, which averages about £4 10s yearly for a 200 acre farm. In some counties the roads are very good, in others middling; but the gravel roads in all the counties are in a very fair condition. Dwellings and farm buildings are mostly of wood, but some are of brick and stone. Money can be borrowed at from 7 to 10 per cent. There is a ready market for all kinds of produce, and ample facilities for removing it to collecting centres and seaport towns. Carriage by rail is very cheap. A farm of 200 acres will support ten or a dozen cows, from 15 to 20 young cattle, from 30 to 40 sheep, four working horses, and a pair of bullocks; the horses require to be good and quiet, and they are generally light fine movers. He only saw a few of the heavy Clydesdale breed. There are various kinds of cattle, a cross from a short-horn and a Canadian cow answers the land well. The young stock is mostly reared on farms. At the present time the freight for horses to Liverpool is from £10 to £12, cattle £3 to £4, sheep 8s. to 10s. On the farms, cows are valued at from £5 to £10, horses from £20 to £35, and sheep from 12s. to 40s.; butter sells at 8d. per lb., cheese at 3d., hens at 1s., eggs about 6d. per dozen, geese 1s. 6d. each, turkeys 3s. 4d. The cultivation of prairie land has not had any effect on the prices of produce grown on cultivated land; this is accounted for by the continual influx of emigrants, who, of course, augment the consumption in the country. There is really no rotation of cropping; the crops

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generally cultivated are fall and spring wheat, barley, oats, peas, buckwheat, potatoes, turnips, mangolds, beets, carrots, Indian corn, other vegetables little known at home, and a little of nearly all kinds of fruit. Blacksmiths, joiners and coopers receive from 4s. to 6s. daily; husbandmen and labourers from 12 to 20 dollars per month with board. Ploughing is similar to that in this country. The provinces are fairly and well intersected with railways, and new ones are in course of construction. In Ontario the farms are all well watered; where no streams run through the farms wells have to be sunk, and water put in troughs. In Quebec there is plenty of water all through the province. Fruit, as he had said, is cultivated to an enormous extent in some places; orchards extend from one to forty acres; apples have been known to be as low as 6d. per bushel, and as high as 4s. Peaches and grapes are grown in open gardens in various parts. The Colorado beetle eats up all if he gets to the potato crop. The usual remedy is hot lime or Paris green sown on the tops, or mixed with water and poured over; either is known to be an effectual cure. The beetle is not considered of much consequence. From what he saw he had no hesitation in saying that farmers got 10 per cent. from the capital laid out. Canada is a pleasant place to live in. Heavy soil requires tile drainage, but the bulk is naturally dry and never will require draining. Wood and coal are used, chiefly wood. Speaking of the minerals, he said gold, silver, copper, iron, galena, plumbago, antimony, manganese, granite, marbles, slates, burrstones, bones, phosphate of lime, salt, petroleum, and peat had been found in different districts. Lately large discoveries of coal fields had been made in the North-West Territory. Coal is found to crop out on the surface of the country for hundreds of square miles. There is plenty of game. The Government keeps a register of all farms sold in each county. In April, May or June is the best time to go out. The labourers most live in farm houses. Feeding stuffs mostly used on farms are peas, oats and barley; turnips and hay for cattle; pigs are fed on peas chiefly, with potatoes sometimes. He saw some splendid pigs. In conclusion, Mr. Irving spoke of the admirable system of education introduced into Canada, and announced that he would be happy to give advice to any who thought of going out. (Applause.)

Mr. Grahame said he was very glad to find that Mr. Irving substantiated the remarks he made at the meeting which appointed the delegate. He agreed with Mr. Irving that only young men prepared to "rough it" should go to the outlying districts. There was plenty of room in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec for farmers with families.

On the motion of the Chairman, a hearty vote of thanks was awarded to Mr. Irving, and the meeting separated.

REPORT OF MR. THOMAS JOHNSTON, DELEGATE FROM WREAY, CUMBERLAND.

A meeting of farmers was held at Wreay on the 5th of December. Mr. Postlthwaito was called to the chair.

Mr. JOHNSTON, who was favourably received, said:—I must in the first place hope that you will be very indulgent, as this is my first attempt at endeavouring to speak to such an audience as I see before me now. At our meeting held in this room now more than three months ago, you very kindly appointed me as your delegate to visit Canada, and examine into and report upon the state of agriculture as practiced in that part of our Empire. The week after our meeting I went out there, in company with others who were on the same errand, and I am now going to attempt, to the best of my ability, to tell you what I have seen and heard. We sailed from Liverpool on the 4th of September in the "Moravian," one of the Allan Line of steamers. We had a quick and pleasant passage from Liverpool to Point Lévis, the voyage occupying nine days, including our call at Moville for mails. Beyond a slight sea-sickness for two days, I quite enjoyed the voyage. The number of passengers

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and crew together amounted to about five hundred. There was no lack of amusement in the way of music, games, etc., so that the time never hung heavy upon our hands, and the unvarying fine weather induced us to spend most of our time upon deck. On entering the Gulf of St. Lawrence we had a sight of both whales and porpoises, and on proceeding up the river and coming closer to land, I was struck with the difference to our own country which the view presented, large forests of principally brushwood reaching down to the water's edge. We landed at Point Lévis on Saturday evening, and spent our time there until Monday evening, with the exception of passing over to Quebec on Monday afternoon in order to get our money changed into Canadian currency. We left Point Lévis for Ottawa by way of Montreal on the Monday evening, my three companions and myself having secured a sleeping berth on the railway cars, which, I may here mention, are altogether different to our railway trains, the passengers being able to travel from one end of the train to the other. We arrived at Ottawa at five o'clock in the evening of the 16th September. On the 17th we went to the Hon. Mr. Pope's office to report our arrival. Mr. Pope being out of town, we saw Mr. Lowe, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, who made arrangements for our going into the country in the afternoon. We in the meantime saw through the Parliament Buildings, and those set apart for the Agricultural Department particularly, and examined different samples of grain and seeds, as well as many models of agricultural machinery. We then went to visit a farm in the County of Carleton, which belongs to a Mr. Hopper, who wants to sell it. The house and farm buildings are of wood. There was a nice field of Indian corn, as well as some potatoes and carrots growing. The soil is a light sandy loam. In all there are 240 acres, for which Mr. Hopper wants £1,600. On the 20th we left to visit a farm at Kinburn, belonging to Captain Fraser, the land all the way looking very fair. The farm consists of 200 acres clay loam, and Captain Fraser wants £2,400 for it.

On the 22nd we went to a farm four miles from Ottawa, which belongs to a Mr. Hurdman; there are 270 acres of land (clay loam); it is well watered, and being near the town, Mr. Hurdman informed us that he sold most of his produce there, and brought manure back to the farm. He wants £4,000 for it.

On the 23rd we went to the Agricultural Exhibition. The first article I noticed was a manure spreader, which would spread a cart load in from one to two minutes. I thought it would be a first-class article for top-dressing. I also noticed a binder which bound the sheaves with wire. Next a hay elevator, for stacking; it will unload a cart in two or three minutes. Next I saw a plough for ploughing hilly ground; it turns all the furrows one way. There were large varieties of reaping and binding machines, as well as steam and horse-power threshing machines, and corn and seed drills in great quantities. The exhibition of carriages, waggons, stages and carts was exceedingly good. We then visited the machinery hall, where there were steam engines of all sorts, fire engines, planing and drilling machines, grinding and boring machines, saws of a variety of descriptions, &c., &c. After this we went across the building and saw a great variety of minerals, all the produce of Canada, and different kinds of building material. We next visited the produce of Manitoba in the exhibition. The wheat, which that part of the country is famed for, was most excellent. Oats fine and plump. Peas, beans and small seeds very fine. Indian corn not so good as that grown in Ontario. Grass from two to three feet long. The show of horses was not so good as I anticipated, except the roadsters, which were the best trotters I have ever seen. Cattle are well represented—they include shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, Ayrshires, Galloways and Polled Angus. Sheep also were a good show—they include Leicesters, Cotswolds, Shropshires, Hampshires and Southdowns. Pigs were in great variety, including Berkshire, Suffolk, Essex and Yorkshire, and all very good. There were many varieties of potatoes. Turnips were very large, as were the mangel-wurzel. Sugar beets, squash and pumpkins were also very fine. Fruit made an excellent show, such as apples, pears, peaches, plums and grapes. Wheat is not so plump and fine as our own. Barley small, but very bright and dry. Oats moderate. Indian corn very fine.

On the 26th we left Ottawa for Toronto. On the 27th and 28th we visited Niagara Falls, which we thought very fine; and on our return to Toronto on the 29th we made arrangements for visiting the London Show, for which place we left the next day, the 30th. On the way we went through some heavy loamy soil until we approached Guelph; there the land appears better, and is better farmed, and continues good to London. After dinner we went to the show, where we were introduced to the Mayor and a number of other gentlemen. I thought the horses, particularly the roadsters, very good. In the cattle class the shorthorns were very fine, the Bow Park herd being particularly well represented, and taking most of the prizes. There was a good show of other descriptions of cattle, and the sheep I thought better than at Ottawa. Roots, grain and fruit were very fine. We next visited a glass hen; it was a kind of oval box covered with glass inside. There were over 100 eggs—some of them were just chipping, some breaking the shell, and some out. This process was carried on by electricity.

On the 1st of October we visited Mr. Carling's brewery. It is a very fine building, and cost £50,000. We then went to a farm, where we met the proprietor, a Yorkshireman, who came into the country 60 years ago, and was the first man who cleared the ground upon which London stands. Land here is worth from £10 to £20 per acre.

On the 2nd we left London for Bothwell, where we arrived at seven o'clock, and were met by Mr. McCraney, M.P.P. We drove, *via* Dresden, to Chatham, the land near the latter place being very good, and worth from £8 to £12 per acre, the soil being clay loam.

On the 3rd we drove about the neighbourhood of Chatham. We went to a farm belonging to a Dutchman. He has 200 acres of land, and 90 of it in fall wheat. From there we went to Mr. Donnelly's. He is a native of the north of Ireland. When he landed in Canada all he had was £10. Now he has three farms of his own and has saved a large sum of money. We next saw some very fine apple and peach orchards near Lake Erie, and arrived at Blenheim for the night.

On the 4th we drove from Blenheim to Ridgetown, where they were holding their show, all descriptions of produce being very good. The land here is worth from £6 to £10 per acre. We then went to Ingersoll and Woodstock, and were joined by Mr. Casswell, a large cheese merchant.

On the 7th we left Woodstock and went to a farm, the owner of which is a Dalston man. He came to Canada 39 years since, and has a very large place. It is very well farmed. He has also a very good farm house and excellent buildings. He grows more turnips than we have yet seen comparatively, and has most of his farm drained with tiles. We were very well entertained by our Dalston friend, and then went to look over a cheese factory, one of the largest in Canada. They make over 200 tons per annum. They use the milk of 1,200 cows every day. From there we went to Ingersoll, passing through a rolling country. Land very good, chiefly sandy loam. It is worth from £10 to £16 per acre.

On the 8th we left to look at a farm one mile from Ingersoll. There are 200 acres in all. £12 per acre is wanted for it, the soil being clay loam, and the buildings very good. We then went, *via* Dearham and Mount Elgin, to Norwich and Woodstock, the land in these sections being worth from £10 to £14 per acre.

On the 9th we left Woodstock for Simcoe, and had a drive out into the country in the neighbourhood. Land here good but light, and is worth from £12 to £14 per acre. The farm houses are chiefly brick.

On the 10th we went from Simcoe to Dover, and found a very good quality of land, varying in price from £16 to £18 per acre.

On the 11th we went to Stratford, where we met Mr. Hay, M.P. for Perth, and visited a farm belonging to a Mr. Bullantine, which is held at £12 per acre.

On the 13th we visited Shakspeare and Hyde Park. We found the land chiefly clay loam, and looked over a farm of 150 acres, all cleared, belonging to a Scotchman named Hyde. He values it at £12 per acre. We then went to North-east Hope and

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Melverton, and thence to Listowel, the land being much better than what we saw in the morning.

On the 14th we went from Listowel to inspect a rotary plough. The man in charge said that he could plough five acres per day. It had three wheels, two before and one behind the mould boards, and when the plough was in motion the moulds worked round and thoroughly pulverized the ground. From thence we went on to Wallace and Norristown, and found the land very good all the way.

On the 15th we visited a large German settlement in the County of Grey, and then went on to Walkertown, in the County of Bruce. Land here is worth from £5 to £10 per acre.

On the 16th we went to Brant Township and visited a farm belonging to a Scotch gentleman, containing 300 acres of land. He grew 30 bushels of spring wheat per acre and 60 bushels of oats per acre this year. We then went to Wingham, looking over several farms by the way.

On the 17th we went to Clinton. From there we went through the Township of Tuckersmith, where we found most excellent land. I got out of the buggy and pulled some fall wheat which was over two feet in length. From there we went to Guelph, *via* Seaforth.

On the 18th we went through the Agricultural College, one-and-a-half miles from Guelph. All the arrangements were exceedingly good at this college, the stock kept being shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, Ayrshires, Polled Angus and grades in cattle, Leicester, Cotswold and Down sheep, and Berkshire and Windsor pigs. The students are instructed in agriculture, veterinary science, English and mathematics. The young men receive their instruction free, the one half of them work the one half of the day, and the other half the other. When not at work they are at school. From the college we went to a place called the Paisley Block, which was settled by Paisley weavers a long time ago. We examined a farm belonging to a Mr. Whitlaw. He has a number of excellent Leicester sheep as well as good grade cattle. We next visited a farm belonging to a Mr. Hobson. He has some good stock. The soil here is chiefly light clay loam.

On the 20th went to Fergus, and from thence to a farm belonging to two brothers named Watts. When we first met them they were housing turnips. We then went over their stock, the cattle being chiefly shorthorns. Land here is sandy loam, and valued at about £15 per acre. From here we went through the Township of Nichol back to Guelph.

On the 21st we left Guelph for Toronto, and not meeting a gentleman expected from Ottawa we went out to look at a fox hunt. We expected to see a fox, but it was only a trail. The horses and riders were similar to what we see in England.

On the 22nd we went and looked over a farm situated about five miles from Toronto. There are over 100 acres of land, and it is valued at £30 per acre.

On the 23rd we went to St. Catharines; land all the way light sandy loam, until we arrived at Hamilton. At St. Catharines we went to see a vineyard; the man in charge said that it contained 50 acres, and the grapes averaged three tons per acre. There was also an orchard of forty acres. Land here is worth £20 per acre.

On the 24th left Toronto for Montreal. On the 25th went to the top of Mount Royal Park, and had a beautiful view of Montreal from there. We then secured our berths in the "Sardinian," one of the Allan steamships.

On the 27th we left Montreal for Cookshire, and went over the Victoria Viaduct, which is the largest in the world, being $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length. We went for about 50 miles through a French settlement. Land appears to be worn out. There was a good deal of cedar swamp, and then we came into rocky ground. Passed through Richmond and Sherbrooke on way to Cookshire.

On the 28th went to Compton, where we saw the Hon. Mr. Cochrane's herd of shorthorns, one of the finest in the world. From Compton we went through a very nice piece of grass country on our way to Sherbrooke. The land in this district is worth from £3 to £6 per acre.

On the 29th we left Sherbrooke for Point Lévis, *via* Richmond, land on the way being very inferior as a rule. Stayed at Point Lévis all night.

On the 30th we went to see the Falls of Montmorency, land all along being very good, and principally settled by French Canadians.

On the 31st had a look at the Town of Quebec, and then back to our hotel.

The Canadian people, as a rule, are a kind and most hospitable class. The way the original settlers cleared thousands of acres of land in the face of great difficulties is very creditable to them. A person who has never been there would hardly credit the size and quality of the fruits, roots and vegetables. The roads, as a rule, are good, and railways are running over the most part of the country. Their farm implements are more lightly and elegantly made than our own, and quite as serviceable. Their schools are free, and perhaps their school system is the most perfect in the world. The climate is hotter in summer and colder in winter, but much drier than here. The farm buildings are mostly wood, and as they do not stack their crops the barns are very large. A great many of the houses are built of brick, and very elegantly constructed. The cattle, as a rule, are not so good as we have. The horses are something like our coaching horse, being very active, and from their spring being short they are capable of doing a great deal of work when it is much required. Sheep are very good as a rule. The farmers keep up the roads by statute labour, each having so much to do according to the quantity of land he holds. The fences are all made of wood of various kinds. The farmers in Canada, as a rule, are not good farmers, although some are as good as we have in England. Their corn market is generally in the street. They bring their grain in waggons, and sell it out of them. Canada is a very well watered country.

REPORT OF MR. GEORGE WILKEN, DELEGATE FROM ABERDEENSHIRE.

Mr. George Wilken, of Watersides of Forbes, Aberdeenshire, having been named at a public meeting in Aberdeen as a suitable man to be a delegate from that county, was (after being a month in Canada) duly appointed to act in such capacity. He entered Canada, by way of New York, and reports as follows:—

After due consideration, I have adopted for simplicity and correctness, as the form of my report, a diary kept at the time, and hope all will be able to form, from this and other reports, a more correct idea of the country than generally prevails, and also to form conclusions each for himself, whether it is the place for some of our, at present, hard pressed farmers to go to or otherwise. It is always a delicate matter, in my opinion, to advise any man to leave his home and the old place he loves so well, and therefore best to leave each and every one to decide for themselves. I have recorded nothing I was not able to see for myself was not far from the truth, and, although exact results are not much recorded, it must be remembered that Manitoba is as yet a new country, and also a place where the people are more accustomed to speak and think about miles than acres.

23rd September.—Left New York for Boston, *via* East River and Long Island Sound. 24th.—In Boston. 25th.—Left Boston for Portland, *via* Boston and Maine R.R., passing through the great cotton manufacturing towns of America, and also through a very miserable farming country. 26th.—Left Portland, where there is a splendid harbour, and the eastern terminus of the Grand Trunk R.R. of Canada, for Montreal, *via* Gorham and the White Mountains, passing into Canada at Norton Mills, 160 miles from Portland. Compton (near which is the Hon. Cochrane's farms and famous herd of shorthorns), Sherbrooke and Richmond, where the train branches off to Quebec, to the Valley of the St. Lawrence, crossing the Victoria Bridge into Montreal, the total distance by steamboat and rail travelled being 643 miles. The first part of this route, through the New England States, is through a very poor farming country, the latter part, from Compton, in Canada, improving all the way to the St. Lawrence, where there is some fine land, very badly farmed. There seems to be plenty of good

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land with plenty of good running streams; along the St. Lawrence some fine pasture and fine lands miserably farmed (principally by French Canadians) in long narrow strips, and apparently in small holdings. Arrived at Windsor Hotel, a perfect palace. 28th.—Sunday, in Montreal. 29th.—Went to Lachine, by rail, in order to descend the famous rapids above the city. The descent is made in a steamer, has a little dangerous look about it as the vessel goes tap tapping on the shelving rocks—believe there is no real danger. Had heard or read about being piloted down these rapids by Indian pilots in all their wild attire; found this myth rudely dispelled, as a very common looking Yankee seemed quite sufficient in our case to pilot our stout flat-bottom s.s. all safe on our short and uneventful passage down the Lachine Rapids. An Indian village is seen on the south shore, and a canoe with two Indians in it crossed the river behind us, just after we had passed the most dangerous rapid. They looked in the distance very like a cockle-shell with two tadpoles in it.

Went under that magnificent structure, the Victoria Bridge; it looks more like a lasting monument to Stephenson than does its longer and more airy rival in Scotland, the Tay Bridge—which I also passed over on my way thither.

Montreal, a fine city, with 160,000 of a population, some very fine buildings, and some handsome streets and church spires; has lately acquired the Mountain as a park, which forms its background, has dubbed it "Royal" and well deserves the title. It will soon form one of the finest parks and drives in the world: is beautifully wooded to the summit, and various views from the niches in the ascent are really very beautiful, varied and extensive. Met many countrymen, all doing well and very kind. Heard for the first time of the arrival of several Farmer Delegates from England and the South of Scotland.

30th.—Left Montreal for Ottawa, 117 miles by the Government railway, now completed from Quebec to Montreal, on the east branch of the St. Lawrence, and by the Ottawa River, to the Capital City of the Dominion. This is the best railroad, up to this point, I have seen in America. Man and buggy run over by engine at a crossing, none of these having even a gate; instead, usually, a big sign with the inscription "Railroad Crossing. Look out for the Engine." All over this new country it seems the engine must get along and the people must get out of the way. Most of these accidents, I understand, occur by the drivers of the machines miscalculating the speed at which a train is running.

The cow-catcher, attached here to all engines, carried the horse along about 30 yards and left him a fearful mess about 10 yards off the track. Had only gone about 5 miles when a large van crossed the track within a few feet of the engine going at 20 miles an hour. No wonder there are accidents and accidents.

Passed through a very poor farming country, some farms had good houses, and saw some very neat and apparently thriving villages.

Ottawa at 3 p.m.—Had introduction to and called upon Dr. Taché, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; found the Secretary of the Department and the Minister of Agriculture were not in town, the former having gone with the delegates to Toronto. Visited the Parliamentary Buildings, very fine and beautifully situated. Visited the extensive saw mills and lumber yards, which are on a very large scale, full advantage being taken of the falls for a water power and of the river above for floating timber from the forests in the interior. There are piles and piles of lumber for miles along the river, and miles and miles of saw-lust along the banks, bad feed I should think for the fish (if there are any left). Ottawa will not likely become a large city rapidly, as it must wait for the development of the Canadian Pacific Railroad and others to the west.

1st October.—Left Ottawa for Prescott, 54 miles, to join the steamboat advertised in that morning's papers as running in connection with this train, to find on arrival it had been withdrawn that morning without notice, so missed the sail on the St. Lawrence through the far-famed thousand isles. Had to make the best of my forced stay of four hours at Prescott, so explored the place, and then crossed in steam-ferry to Ogdensburgh on the American side. In sauntering along the streets, saw an advertisement of a sale of real estate now going on, so stopped in to have a look at an

American auctioneer and his customers. Had I not known I would have had some difficulty in telling I was not at home; business was brisk and town lots were selling at an average of \$300 for lots 110 by 132 feet. Crossed to Prescott and joined Grand Trunk Railway for Toronto, *via* Kingston. The railway skirts the St. Lawrence and Lake Ontario most of the way; some land very good, some very middling, and a good deal very poor.

2nd October.—Left Toronto early, having heard the delegates had gone to Hamilton Fair. Heard here they were in London, so made up my mind to have a look at Ontario all by myself. On arrival at the fair grounds, I called on the obliging Secretary, Mr. Bruce, who kindly offered to introduce me to some of the Directors to show me round; I told him I would prefer to go round alone in the first instance, and see what I could see, and would call back. Had a two hours' inspection all by myself, and then returned to the Secretary, who kindly introduced me to a number of the Directors, at the same time presenting me with a very pretty favour, on which was inscribed "Visitor's Badge." Thus armed, and piloted by Mr. Stock, a hearty Englishman, apparently a well-known farmer and magistrate—at any rate, a very intelligent one,—I shall attempt to give a description of a Canadian fair, as Mr. Bruce would arrive too late to see any of them. At every centre there is what is called the "Exhibition Ground," on which is erected a permanent and often spacious building, surrounded by an enclosed park, in the centre of which is an enclosed ring, where all the trotting horses show off their paces in single buggies, in double buggies, and without buggies, and in waggons and democrats, a sort of compromise 'twixt a wagon and a buggy. A fair here is a combination of our cattle shows, horticultural shows, root shows, race meetings, picnics and bazaars, the latter including all sorts of industrial work, sewed and knitted; in fact, anything and everything is to be found in the building or on the ground that man or woman may need, or even think of needing. They are held all over the country in autumn, after the harvest is over, and last from one day up to three weeks, as did the one at Toronto this year. This one lasted three days, being a local one, Toronto three weeks, being a district one, whilst the final appeal, as "Tillyfour" would say, is at the Dominion Show, which is held in different provinces every year. It was held at Ottawa this year, and I missed it by a day, having been told it would go on for two weeks. Again went over the cattle, pigs and implements, neither requiring special notice, as, with the exception of a few shorthorns from Bow Park Farm (called Durhams), and a few fair grades or crosses, there was nothing worth comparing with such displays at home. The industrial work in the Exhibition Building is worthy of imitation at home, as it gives all an interest in the fair. In one wing was exhibited an immense Map of the Dominion of Canada (drawn and filled in by hand), which gave one some small idea of the vast extent of territory in the Dominion of Canada. Went to the root show, and it surprised me more than all the others. Coming along I had seen some good fields of swedes and mangolds, but was not prepared to see swedes, mangolds, and potatoes that would put any of our exhibits of this year far into the shade. Mr. Stock was very hard on me for only allowing they could beat us *this year*. Our next inspection was fruits. Here I saw, and tasted too, fruit of every hue and flavour. It will give some idea of the show of apples when I mention that the varieties in sections varied from six to forty-two, and all were such as I had never seen. Peaches, grapes (all outdoor), melons, tomatoes, squash, and ever so many kinds of fruit I never either saw or heard of. I am no great judge of flowers, but I ken guid fruit when I taste it, so I admitted at once they could beat us in fruit, and got off to the horse ring, where the trotting matches were about to commence. This is the great event of all such meetings, as every farmer has, as a matter of course, the best trotter. The ground here had been so well chosen that all could see, and a more orderly crowd I never saw. All were well and cleanly dressed. In many cases the whole family were there—husband, wife and weans—in horse and buggy, or pair and waggon, or democrat. All drive into the grounds and put up their horses in the permanent stables erected round one side of the enclosure, where also are lodged those intended for exhibition in the ring, so that one

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can only see the horses for exhibition when being judged in the ring. In passing around, Mr. Stock seemed to have the knack of seeing only Scotchmen; after an introduction, the usual salute being, "Bless'd if I can see anybody in this fair worth speaking to that is not a Scotchman." Mr. Stock is an Englishman himself and proud of it, and I give him credit for being able to find them only when he wants them. Stock knows everybody and everybody knows Stock being about the English of it. The trotting matches in buggies I could not describe; the wonder to me was what way everybody did not run into every other body's buggy, and think it would be best described as a race of wheels. There was only one spill, and the best of humour with all. Some of these trotters would be best described as ugly brutes, only there is no mistake they can go, and some of them showed splendid training, moving about with their four wheels and a seat like a graceful skater on ice. To all at Hamilton I here record my thanks for their kindness and courtesy.

Returned to Toronto late, and passed through a severe thunderstorm accompanied by such a downpour of rain as I never saw and never wish to see again. 3rd Oct.—Toronto, a very beautiful and fast-rising city of 80,000. Value of assessed property: real, \$36,748,484; income, \$2,115,066; personal, \$7,816,817. Total, \$46,680,367. Banks, 12; Churches, 65. In Ontario there are 559,442 Irish; 439,429 English; 328,889 Scotch; 75,000 French; 12,978 Indians or half-breeds; and 204,730 of all others. In the other provinces nearly in the same proportion, unless Quebec, which has 929,817 of French extraction out of a total population of 1,191,516. The increase during the last ten years of the four principal provinces are given at Ontario, 16 $\frac{1}{2}$ %; Quebec, 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ %; Nova Scotia, 17 $\frac{1}{2}$ %; New Brunswick, 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ %. Drove out to the farm of Mr. Reid, seedsman, five miles east from Toronto, 200 acres; cost, a few years ago, \$100 per acre, would now need to be worth a good deal more, as a great many improvements and reclamations have been made by Mr. Reid, who will, no doubt, be able, through his business, to turn a good deal more out of it than a farmer could do. He is to farm on a regular rotation, keep stock, drive town manure, &c. Has a splendid crop of swedes and Indian corn, some fair Durhams and good sheep. Visited Dr. Smith's veterinary college, who is principal and owner of the college, and has a large practice. The college is attended by a large number of students from all parts of Canada, and a good many from the States. Met Mr. Simon Beattie, of Annan, on his way to Scotland, with a number of fine carriage horses, who brought out in May some shorthorn cattle and Clydesdales. He told me there had lately been many enquiries about Polled Aberdeen cattle, and expected there would soon be a demand for them, both in Canada and the States. 4th October.—Left for Guelph, where my fellow passengers on steamer, Mr. and Mrs. Innes, gave me a hearty welcome. Mr. Innes worthily fills the important and onerous post of proprietor and editor of the Guelph *Mercury*, and is well known and highly respected, not only in his own district, but far beyond, having occupied at one time a prominent position on the staff of that famous Canadian daily, *The Toronto Globe*, usually termed the Hon. George Brown's Thunderer, *The Globe*. At Mr. Innes' I met Mr. Johnson, who had just retired from being principal of the "Ontario School of Agriculture and Model Farm," to complete his studies for the bar of Canada. From all I could learn, he has left his mark at the Model Farm, a great part of its first success being placed to his credit, and it does not need a prophet to foretell that he will leave his mark elsewhere, if health is spared him. Drove out by Eramosa and country around Guelph, accompanied by Messrs. Innes and Johnson. Saw some very good land and good stock, and some very middling. Country looking very fine. 5th.—Sunday at Guelph. 6th.—Went to Model Farm with Mr. Johnson; met Professor Brown (late factor to Invercauld, now Professor of Agriculture and Farm Manager), and all the officials. Dined with the ninety-odd students, and then went over the farm with Professor Brown. The farm has been so often described I need not again attempt to do so, and will just remark in passing that it has now passed through its transition stage and is proving a decided success; the one fact of over a hundred students having been refused this session, I think, warrants the statement. It is not, as I have seen stated, supported by the Dominion Government; but is entirely supported by the Provincial

Government of Ontario. The students are required to work five hours a day and study other five, and the college is to all intents and purposes a school to learn young farmers both theory and practice. In a careful trial that is taking place with the various breeds of cattle on the same keep, breeders of the famous Aberdeen "Doddies" will be glad to learn they are holding their own alongside shorthorns, Herefords and Devons. I may here state that I had made a number of enquiries about their cost, and whether I thought them suitable for Canada all over the country. I found a good many people prejudiced against "Blackskins," as the only kind they had ever seen did badly; on enquiry this turned out to have been Galloways, a good number of which were imported many years ago. Also inspected a fine field of swedes containing about 30 varieties, some of which I never heard of and some of which it will not matter much if they are not heard of again. A good many were hybrids between yellow and swedes; most of these had all the appearance of yellows until tasted. Was presented with report of School of Agriculture for 1877 and 1878, and will be glad to show it to anyone interested. Professor Brown drove me to see Mr. Judd's Devons about to be sold, a very uniform lot; then to Mr. Stone's Herefords, over 100 head; saw 15 of the finest female calves, just weaned, I ever saw of any one breed all together. Was informed a great demand had lately sprung up in the United States for Hereford bulls for crossing; many going as far as Texas at nearly double the price of last year, showing our Texas friends are fully alive to get their cattle ready young for the British market. Then to Mr. Stone's farm where he has long kept a large herd of shorthorns. I was not so favourably impressed with these, especially the bulls.

7th October.—Mr. Johnson drove me to Puslinch Fair, 7 miles from Guelph, on the Hamilton Road. Passed some very good farms, including one for sale, which I afterwards enquired particulars about. 200 acres mostly cleared, good stone house and bank barn, large orchard, well fenced, good land and in good order. The cash price for farm, including houses, fencing, all crops (unless turnips), was \$15,000, or \$75 per acre. The stock on the farm consisted of 11 horses, 42 cattle, and 40 sheep, besides pigs. For the farm, live and dead stock, minus the household furniture, the proprietor offered to take "£3,300 cash." I got a valuation of the stock from a competent man in the district, who considered the farm worth the money, and the stock more than the farmer had put upon it. It is beautifully situated, and within two miles of Guelph, which enhances its value considerably. Puslinch district is different from any I have seen, plenty of boulders and stone dykes, the latter all I saw in Canada. Autumn wheat everywhere looking well; in some cases the crop is laid and sheep on it eating it down.

8th October.—Left for Fergus, one of the districts where a number of Aberdonians took up their abode some thirty, some forty, years ago. In some few cases came across the original settler who told you there was nobody between him and Huron (some 70 or 80 miles) when he settled; now fine farms line the roads all the way; in many cases the sons occupied the places their fathers had cleared. Visited the farms of Mr. Rennie and Mr. McQueen. The former is from Aberdeenshire; both have good farms, well stocked, and good stone houses. Saw his mother and father, very old people, who came out nearly 40 years ago and hacked their way out of the bush, and now seem very comfortable. Had a good crack with the old lady in real Aberdeen doric.

9th October.—Had a drive of some 40 miles round Fergus. Visited a good many Aberdonians and other Scotchmen; most had hewn their farms out of the forest, and all seemed to be doing well and pleased at farming their own lands, and it is astonishing to see what they have done in the short space of 30 years, as, go where you will, there are any number of fine cleared farms, good houses, and good gravel roads.

In the town of Fergus are some Aberdonians, seemingly all doing well. I may mention some I met: Mr. Argo, senior and junior, and Mr. Michie, large storekeepers, and Mr. Cadenhead, a brother of our own Fiscal, who had another brother a model farmer (lately dead), and yet another in the far-off land of Manitoba, along with his son and nephew and several others.

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Fergus has not been in a very prosperous state since the American depression, but all are now confident that better times have begun. Here there is a very good water power driving a number of mills; one of these ships a good deal of meal to Glasgow. At this date oats were 27 to 30 cents for 34 lbs; barley, 50 to 55 cents for 50 lbs; wheat, \$1.08 to \$1.10 for 60 lbs. It takes 7 bushels of oats to make a boll of meal of 140 lbs., allowing 1s. for milling, and 3s. 9d. for carriage; showed the miller could deliver meal at date in Glasgow for 12s. 11d. per boll of 140 lbs.

I will here quote Toronto prices and Liverpool quotations for same date.

Toronto prices from the *Globe* :—

Wheat, fall, per bushel.....	\$1 20 to \$1 23
Wheat spring do	1 17 to 1 20
Barley do	0 57 to 0 59
Oats do	0 35 to 0 36
Pease do	0 60 to 0 65
Rye do	0 58 to 0 59
Dressed hogs, per 100 lbs.....	5 50 to 6 00
Carrots, per bag	0 45 to 0 00
Parsnips do	0 50 to 0 00
Cabbage, doz.	0 45 to 0 00
Chickens, per pair	0 25 to 0 50
Fowls do	0 50 to 0 50
Ducks, per brace.....	0 45 to 0 60
Geese, each.....	0 40 to 0 50
Turkeys.....	0 75 to 1 70
Butter, lb. rolls.....	0 17 to 0 20
Butter, large rolls.....	0 11 to 0 12
Butter, store-packed.....	0 09 to 0 11
Eggs, fresh, per doz.....	0 14 to 0 15
Eggs, in lots.....	0 11 to 0 12
Apples, per barrel.....	0 75 to 1 50
Potatoes do	0 90 to 1 00
Onions, per barrel.....	1 50 to 2 00
Hay.....	7 00 to 10 00
Straw.....	5 50 to 7 00

The following are the Liverpool quotations for each day of the past week :—

	Oct. 2.	Oct. 3.	Oct. 4.	Oct. 6.	Oct. 7.	Oct. 8.
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Flour.....	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 0	13 6
Spring Wheat.....	10 0	10 2	10 2	10 2	10 2	10 6
Red Winter.....	10 8	10 11	10 11	10 11	10 11	11 2
White.....	10 8	10 10	10 10	10 11	10 11	11 2
Club.....	11 2	11 4	11 4	11 4	11 4	11 7
Oats.....	5 5	5 5	5 5	5 5	5 5	5 9
Barley.....	6 8	6 8	6 8	6 8	6 8	6 8
Peas.....	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3	5 3
Pork.....	7 5	7 5	7 5	7 5	7 5	7 5
Lard.....	49 6	50 0	50 0	50 0	50 0	50 6
Bacon.....	34 6	34 6	34 6	34 6	34 9	34 0
Tallow.....	32 6	32 6	32 6	32 6	32 6	32 6
Cheese.....	32 9	33 0	33 6	33 6	32 9	32 9
	47 0	46 0	46 0	46 0	43 0	49 0

10th October.—Attended fair at Elora. Here met a number of Abertonians, the Bon Accord Settlement being in the neighbourhood. Here the display of cattle was far superior to anything I had seen, and a good many of the shorthorns would have taken a deal of beating in our best showyards at home. The exhibits of the Watts, Hunters and Armstrongs were both excellent and numerous, and included the first prize cow at the Dominion Show. Met Mr. John Muir, late Reeve of his township, whom I knew by his friends at home, and arranged to visit the Bon Accord Settlement.

11th October.—Visited the Messrs. Watts' farm and others in the Bon Accord Settlement, and will here give the produce of two farms, the first as a sample of a fair farm well farmed, and the other selected by Mr. Muir as an average of the district. First farm, Messrs. Watts', given me by themselves: 200 acres, 170 in cultivation, balance wood. A rotation is observed as under: 1st, after sod, peas or oats; 2nd, wheat; 3rd, green crops; 4th, wheat or barley, seeding down with timothy and clover; 5th and 6th, cut for hay; 7th, pasture. Average produce: Oats, 60 bushels; peas, 25 to 30; wheat, 25; barley, 40; turnips, 900; hay, 2 to 3 tons. I saw the turnips and estimated them at 23 to 24 tons per acre. This year they had 14 acres oats, 30 wheat, 10 peas, 6 barley, 14 turnips, 28 hay and 68 in pasture. Part of the latter is permanent, unless ploughed up to renew the grass. Live stock, 10 to 12 horses, 45 cattle and 40 sheep. All are mostly grazed six months outside. Pigs not stated.

Statement of produce of farm of 100 acres, selected by Mr. John Muir as a fair average of the district:—

	Acres.	Bushels per acre.	Total.
Wheat	16	18	288
Oats..	12	50	600
Peas.....	8	30	240
Barley.	2	48	96
Patatoes	1	180	180
Turnips.	7	500	3,500
Oats and peas.....	2	55	110
Hay	15	2	30
Pasture.	14		
Woodland, &c.....	17		

		Apples. Bushels. Bushels.
Orchard	4	100 100
Fences, roads and waste.	5	

Sold last year:—

Beef, live weight.....	6,475 lbs.
Pork, dressed.....	1,170 "
Wool.....	78 "

No account kept of dairy produce. No manures of any kind used other than that made on the farm. No feed of any kind bought for stock. Present prices of all the produce is named in list, unless beef and pork. The former was selling at date about $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 cents per lb. live weight for fat, and pork was quoted at $5\frac{1}{2}$ to 6 cents, dressed.

The first farm would sell from \$70 to \$75 per acre, perhaps more, having good houses and fences. The other farm from \$35 to \$40, with fair houses. From prices quoted of various farms I have seen for sale, I should think the average price of farms in the County of Wellington, said to be the best stock county in Ontario, would average about \$50 per acre.

12th October.—Sunday; at Fergus

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13th October.—Left Fergus for Galt, in County Waterloo, and was met by Mr. John Brown, one of the cattle judges at Elora Fair, who drove me over a part of this county. Called on Mr. MacCulloch, who runs one of the largest mill engineering businesses in Canada, who told me I was in good hands. Land much lighter and brae-set than in Wellington County, and reminds one not a little of lower Dee side. Autumn wheat everywhere looking well, and turnips a good crop. Saw some fences formed of pine roots, which certainly looked like a caution to dyke loupers, are said to last forever, and would need to, as they must have cost a deal of money; first, to pull up (which is done by a root-extractor), and then to trail and pile up. Mr. Brown in our travels bought two well-bred cross steers by the trot for \$74 the pair, or £7 10s. a piece, which would be about 1,250 lbs. at three cents. Bad as times are, I would like a few of them to finish at a ten pound note profit, or £17 10s. a piece. Mr. Brown adopts a regular rotation—breeds a few and buys in such as the above in autumn, to finish for the New York or British market in spring. Saw 150 lambs going off to New York at \$4½ per 100 lbs. live weight, the New Yorkers also getting the benefit of paying an additional duty of 20 per cent. when they cross the Niagara. This duty, they seem to think, is a wretched thing for Canada, forgetting apparently it is the consumers and not the producers who pay in the end for protection. I wonder at the people on both sides tolerating these duties at all; you are told it is all to protect their manufactures. I expect the agricultural west will have something to say to that very soon, as they wish, like sensible people, to sell in the dearest and buy in the cheapest market, wherever it is manufactured, and I expect it must end in that. Mr. Brown is also a canny Aberdonian, who went from about Huntly some 20 years ago, a farm servant. He said he saw no prospect before him at home but hard work to the end, so thought he would have a try here, where there was held out a prospect of even a labouring man becoming his own laird. He now occupies his own farm with good stone houses and well cultivated fields, very much on the Aberdeen mode, growing turnips and feeding cattle. I asked him to give me the produce of an average farm in his district; and shall here give his reply in his own words, verbatim:—

(Copy Letter.)

SPRINGFIELD FARM, GALT, 6th November, 1879.

MR. GEORGE WILKEN.

MY DEAR SIR,—I received yours of the 25th October, asking me to select an average farm in the district, and give you the system of farming generally adopted. I find it rather difficult as the majority follow no regular rotation, but as I farm under a regular rotation, and I think about a fair average, I shall give you a sketch of my own. I have about 140 acres under cultivation, divided into six parts as follows:—1st, turnips, potatoes and maize; 2nd, barley and oats; 3rd, grass; 4th, hay; 5th, peas; 6th, wheat, about 23 acres each. I break up my second grass in spring and sow peas, plough and cultivate well in the fall and sow fall wheat; after wheat, turnips, and so on. I have only had this farm ten years, but it is producing more every year; but on an average for the last six years my wheat averages 25 bushels; barley, 30; peas, 25; oats, 30; potatoes, 150 to 200; and turnips, 500 to 600 bushels. I only sow what oats I require for feed, as this district is better adapted for other crops. I feed all my peas to cattle. I keep 6 cows, 6 calves, 6 year-olds and 6 two-year-olds. I fatten my two-year olds in winter, which will realize about \$65 to \$70 each. I fatten from 25 to 30 head. I buy in fall about 20 head such as you saw (\$84 the pair, previously referred to). I don't keep many cattle in summer, as this farm is rather bare for pasture in a dry season, but there are a great many far better farms in this district and a good many worse; but they are all beginning to farm better; some of them have a good deal of summer fallow, and will have 40 bushels of wheat per acre and some 50 bushels barley; as they don't raise many turnips they put their manure on wheat and barley, but of course they can't keep many stock. Some parts of Canada, where the soil is heavy, can raise far heavier

crops and are better for pasture; but we can raise a better sample and the crops are more sure in a wet season. Some pretty large farms, as you saw, this being a fine district for wheat, will be divided as follows: Clover, fallow, wheat and part barley, and then clover again, while they will keep part in turnips, potatoes and oats; they don't keep much stock, but they are beginning to see that a regular rotation and raising more stock is best, and a good many are adopting it. I have written this hurriedly as we have been busy taking out our turnips; but if I have omitted anything you want to know, I will be most happy to give you any information I can. I see by the papers to-day that you have arrived in Manitoba. I hope you will enjoy your trip to the far North-West. If you have time you might drop me a few lines before you leave the country, stating what you think of Canada.

(Signed),

JOHN BROWN.

P.S.—Bear in mind that we are liable here to bad seasons as well as in Scotland, and sometimes wheat is winter killed, making it thin on the ground, and other evils; but we are independent and not pestered with factors or lairds to screw the last halfpenny out of us. I came to Canada twenty years ago with little, am perfectly happy, and *would not go back*.

Mr. Brown's taxes on his farm have never exceeded \$33.1 as landlord and tenant.

14th October.—Returned to Toronto, and again had a look around it. Found it a handsome city, with many fine buildings, not the worst being the North of Scotland Canadian Loan Company's offices, on a main street. The soil for a short distance round is mostly light sandy. The streets are fairly paved and there are many handsome churches (the same may be said of the churches all over Canada). Fruit grows in great abundance, and a few miles west of this was lately called the garden of Canada. Said garden has apparently been many times removed, as I heard of it all over. Certainly, by taking the north shore of Lake Ontario, a few miles inland, and taking a sweep round to Niagara, there is situated one of the finest fruit districts of Canada.

15th October.—Left Toronto by steamer to Niagara, thence by railroad to Falls. Here met Mr. and Mrs. Anderson from Halifax and went to Prospect Hotel. He and his wife had seen the Falls before; his daughter and myself for the first time. It was agreed on leaving the station that nothing was to be said till we reached the hotel and had seen the great sight of America. Mr. Anderson had noticed a look of disappointment with both, and was right. Somehow, and I understand it is general, the first sight of the Falls is disappointing. I suppose it is caused, like many more great things, appearing not so great when you have got them as when you wished for them. The Falls, however, soon grow on one; and after going the round, over and under and all around, their vastness grows upon you, and one wonders more the second day than the first. I had the pleasure of going under the Falls on both sides. No one should leave without going under the American Fall, as it will give all and sundry a good idea of a grey thick Scotch mist at the foot, and of an everlasting shower-bath underneath, which is refreshing, and one goes away with a far better idea of their vastness than by merely seeing them from any and every point. The tolls and charges here at every 50 or 100 yards are simply a disgrace to both countries. If one could get a ticket to view the whole for a guinea, or even two, all would know what was before them. The everlasting 25 or 50 cents is, to say the least, monotonous. The lime light illumination on the American side is very fine, and Canada might take the hint and show off the grand Horse Shoe Fall also.

16th October.—Spent forenoon going over the best points of observation, and also went to see the whirlpool and rapids where the steamship "Maid of the Mist," to escape seizure at the Falls, shot like a meteor to the placid pool below. I have not seen a really good description of the Falls in words, and think they are indescribable; they must be seen, and are worth all the journey to see.

Left for Hamilton by Great Western. Passed through a lovely country, saw several fields of grapes, passed over the new canal connecting Erie with Ontario,

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which, when completed, will allow vessels drawing some 13 or 14 feet to pass from head of Lakes Superior and Michigan to the mouth of the St. Lawrence, a distance of nearly a thousand miles.

17th October.—Left Hamilton for Jarvis and Port Dover, and came back to Caledonia en route for Brantford and Bow Park Farm. Land much lighter than any I have seen. Caledonia, in Canada, has been badly selected, and is not worth bragging about, having none of the first elements of the real article, being neither stern nor wild, and the less said about it the better. I took freight train for Brantford, which travelled at the reasonable speed of 18 miles in 3 hours, and got time for a good look of the country. Saw nothing very inviting in the shape of farms or farming till we came in sight of Bow Park, which is beautifully situated and a bonnie spot. Received telegram to go to Guelph to meet delegates.

18th October.—Left for Guelph, and joined the delegates from the south, who were accompanied by a large party, at Model Farm. Joined them and visited Mr. Whitelaw's and Mr. Hobson's farms. On the former saw some very good commercial cattle and some very fat sheep, and on the latter a big field of swedish turnips, a good crop.

19th October.—Sunday, in Guelph. In afternoon there was a public funeral of a townsman killed the previous Friday by the train at the crossing at the end of the town; the old story, train runs through the street without gate or paling. There were over 100 carriages and buggies in the mournful procession, besides firemen, masons of various orders, oddfellows of the same, headed by a band. These public funerals are quite common, all go without invitation who wish to show respect for the departed.

20th October.—Drove out with delegates, accompanied by Mr. Laidlaw, M.P.P., Mr. Anderson, some time a farmer in the south of Scotland, and Mr. Donaldson, Government Agent at Toronto. Drove to Fergus by Aromosa Road, and returned by Watts' Farm, in the Bon Accord Settlement, and Elora Road. Along the former road some very poor land, along the latter some good land, well cultivated, with good houses.

21st October.—Got papers and letters from home, and heard of Mr. Bruce's appointment as delegate for Aberdeenshire, who was supposed to sail on 8th. Went to Toronto with delegates, who expected to meet Mr. Lowe, and who was expected to bring Mr. Bruce with him. Neither arrived, so Mr. Donaldson arranged a drive in the suburbs, where there was to be a fox hunt. It turned out to be a hunt without the fox, or what they call a drag. The hounds seemed to follow the dragged clout, or whatever it is, almost as keenly as the real article, and we saw a fair run of hounds and horses for 3 or 4 miles without any spills or anything of note.

22nd October.—Met Mr. Lowe, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, who told me Mr. Bruce could not have sailed till the 15th, as he had not arrived by last steamer at Quebec. After a long conversation Mr. Lowe asked if I would accept the appointment of joint delegate with Mr. Bruce if made by the Government, as a party would be made up to go to the Canadian North-West, and it would be impossible for Mr. Bruce to do more than the Eastern Provinces and Ontario. Agreed to do so, and our party was soon made up as follows: Mr. Welch, from Roxburgh; Mr. Wallace and Mr. Gordon, from Dumfries, and myself.

23rd October.—Started for Manitoba, going by Hamilton to London. Arrived in London at 3 p.m. just as it began to snow, which continued all the evening. Visited Carling's brewery, a large place, mostly brewing that great German beverage "Lager Bier."

This is also the favourite bier or beer in America. Mr. Carling stated the quantity used in the States, which seemed to me enormous—(10 million brls. of 26 imperial gallons paid duty last year to the United States, being over 5 gallons to each head of population)—both the total quantity brewed and the amount consumed per head of its enormous population, now nearly 50 million. Canadians also apparently like it, and I don't wonder; it is very agreeable, and not so heady as Bass. Mr. Carling was Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts for the Province of Ontario; he kindly

presented me with a copy of his Report, which I shall be happy to lend to anyone for perusal, as it shows that a province managing its own local affairs keeps well to the front. The following is the index to Report:—

- "Amendments of the Agricultural and Arts Act."
- "Working of the Statute."
- "Reports of Societies."
- "Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association."
- "Mechanics' Institutes."
- "Fruit Growers' Association."
- "Crop Returns."
- "Industrial Museum."
- "Agricultural Education."
- "The Provincial Exhibition, and Conclusion."

Appendix (a) Analysis of Reports of Electoral Divisions, and Township Agricultural Societies.

Appendix (b) Mechanics' Institute.

Appendix (c) Report of the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

Appendix (d) Analysis of Crop Returns.

Appendix (e) Amounts expended for encouragement of Agriculture and Arts for the year.

24th October.—London, covered with from 6 to 9 inches of snow this morning, the streets presenting in many places the appearance of heavy damages among the trees lining their sides, being full of leaves, every street is littered with broken branches. London, like its English rival, has its Thames River, and many other places to match, is a beautiful city even in snow, surpassing a long way its namesake for width of streets, mostly lined on each side with fine trees, the partial destruction of which all were lamenting. Drove out to see Asylum Farm and Buildings, could see nothing of the Farm for snow. Farm of 300 acres, including houses, which cover 75 acres. Saw 46 Canadian milch cows, which are mostly fed in the house in summer. The cows are worth about \$30 at calving, and the calves are given away. Use no manures other than that made on the farm, which is put on the turnip break. Owing to change of overseer, could not get reliable report of the amounts of the various crops. By the manager at the house we were informed they contract for their beef supply; this year the price is \$5.36 per 100 lbs., or less than threepence. Left for Sarnia, about forty miles, in the afternoon, and found the dust blowing on the roads about half way, not a speck of snow to be seen. These drifts are said to occur from mists off the lakes after heat, and of course it depends on the direction of the winds where it falls. Boat should have sailed to-night.

25th October.—Sarnia all day; 5,000 inhabitants. No appearance of steamer, and could get little information as to when it would sail. Visited Huron, about 12,000 inhabitants, on the United States side of the River St. Clair, which is crossed at five-minute intervals by steam ferry-boats. There is nothing particular about either town or city. Went up to the terminus (on Canadian territory) on the Grand Trunk Railroad at the point situated at the bottom of Lake Huron. Here they send all their traffic going west either across the river where their line goes to Detroit, on the United States side of the river, thence by some of the railroads to Chicago, or by steamers on the lakes. The St. Clair is a beautiful stream, and abounds with a number of kinds of fish, including fresh-water herrings or mackerel, a number of which we saw, being packed to send elsewhere. There are some fine residences and farms along its banks, and some of the finest duck shooting in Canada is got here and on Lake St. Clair. Went on board steamer, evening.

26th October.—Sunday, on board steamship Ontario, a large, peculiarly shaped bottomed ship, as are most of the American lake and river steamers. They carry a great amount of cargo with little draught of water, usually stand high out of the water, are painted white, and have their berths and saloons on the top storey, which

latter make them all look top heavy. At 6 a.m. had only got to the Point, two miles. Sailed at seven for Goderich, where are situated large salt works. Took a quantity aboard, price 75 cents per barrel of 200 lbs. Sailed for Kincardine about 3, arrived 7 p.m. Had a run up to see the town. Sailed same evening for Southampton, and found ourselves at anchor there in the morning.

27th October.—Stayed at Southampton till one p.m. Went to see the town. Found storm drum hoisted, and the lake looked rough outside. Captain unwilling to start, having 24 horses aboard. Started at 1 p.m. for the head of the lake. Got to the river by daylight.

28th October.—Passed Joseph Island and landed a pair of horses, some implements, a settler and his dog, on a very primitive pier, in course of construction by the homesteaders. Said to have been a good number settled on the island during the last few years. From the lake it certainly does not look inviting. Here the lakes and windings of the Sault Ste. Marie River, which flows between Superior and Huron, remind one very much of the Kyles of Bute, only the navigation is a little more difficult, owing to shallows in the river, which are now being deepened with dredges and cranes, some of which we saw at work, and a cold looking job it was. Passed Sugar Island, where the Indians used to make their maple sugar. The scenery is grand and impressive, the vessel at times passing between high rocks, not much wider than itself, at others scraping the bottom on some shallow reef. Passed several vessels going up and down. It is here where all vessels from Lake Michigan have to pass into Huron. Arrived at Sault Ste. Marie Rapids at 1 p.m., where the vessel had to pass through two locks on the United States side. Not much of a town on either side, that on the States side being much the largest. Had a look at the new canal being formed alongside the present one. One of the locks, we were told, is the biggest in the world; it is certainly beautifully built of heavy limestone. At the bottom of the rapids saw several Indians in canoes fishing. It is said there are a great many kinds of excellent fish got here. These Indians also descend the rapids in skiffs with passengers at a dollar a head, and had time permitted my pockets would likely have been lightened of one more dollar. Started at 3 p.m. for a straight run of 250 miles to Silver Island, with a strong head wind. Passed a steam shovel at work deepening alongside new pier being formed for a straight run into the canal; also more cranes, &c., at work on a reef a little further on. There are a few settlers along both sides about Sault Ste. Marie.

29th October.—Lake Superior very rough all day, and the vessel pitching and rolling like anything, and so quickly that one had hardly time to prepare for going over on one side till you were in danger going over the other. About 2 p.m. it looked as if our good ship had gone to pieces, as the table burst its moorings and went careering over the place, smashing a few of its own legs and ever so many cabin doors. I had mostly to keep my hammock, only had a look out at this time to see what all the row was about, and it was quite a treat to see the chairs playing at smashing glass doors, and crockery flying about in all directions, with our few remaining lady passengers holding on by the floor to keep themselves in position. Soon, however, the table was lashed down to the floor and the chairs roped to the lashings, and all went off pretty well till we got into the lee of Silver Island, where we found peace again. Landed mails, and went on to Prince Arthur's Landing, where cargo was discharged all night and up to 10 a.m., mostly flour, apples and cases of wines and spirits.

30th October.—Went ashore and had a look of the north end of Lake Superior from the rocky heights above the town. The scene is wild in the extreme, the land, or rather rocks, around the north end of the lake are very poor from a farmer's standpoint, and said to be immensely rich from a miner's, as there is said to be untold quantities of gold, silver and copper. That this is so, there seems to be little doubt; all that is wanted is capital to work the mines. Had for fellow passenger one of the contractors on the Thunder Bay end of the Canadian Pacific Railway, now being made to Selkirk, in Manitoba. The horses on board belonged to him, and, strange to tell, there were no legs broke. He told us that over 100 miles on this end was finished,

that the next 150 would be a caution, as the route was very rough in places, mud lakes in others, and there would have to be a good many tunnels made on this part; however, he had no doubt it would be completed by 1883 or 1884. The horses are now going to the front to drag in provisions and supplies for next summer's work. When this railroad is finished, Thunder Bay or Prince Arthur's Landing, on Lake Superior, will be only 410 miles from Winnipeg.

Left at 10 a.m. for Silver Island, and arrived there at two. Found the mining company's steam yacht waiting to take us to see the silver mine on the island, about 700 yards from the mainland. When the company commenced operations a few years ago on this now famous island, there was only a few square feet above water, now there are a good many houses on it, as they formed breakwaters and filled up with the rock and quartz from the mine. Some of the houses are occupied by the miners. Was accompanied to the mine by the captain of the Ontario, to whom we are indebted for our passes to see the island, and also by the mining engineer, doctor, &c., the latter having friends in Aberdeenshire. Was shown over the works above ground; did not ask to see those below; saw no signs of silver, only was told the mine is at present paying all working expenses by the quartz crushing and washing. During the four years this mine has been worked it has yielded nearly five million dollars worth of silver; one pot or kettle has been found which yielded nearly ninety per cent. of the pure article, and as a matter of course, they are looking for another by following the vein or seam of rock. This mine is wrought by an American company, and the ore and washings go to Baltimore. Was also shown over the crushing and washing mills on the mainland, which are extensive; the washing room being a very large place, filled with endless rubber webs going round and round in water, the fine dust being spread on these. Shares in this mine were originally \$25, have been as high as \$75, and as low as 25 cents.

Discharging cargo till 5 p.m., mostly flour, apples and salt for the company. Population about 700, nearly all in some way connected with the mine. Our captain told us he would only make one more trip this season, so that the people on the lakes are three or four months without much communication with the rest of the world. Left at 5 p.m. for Duluth, where we arrived after a fine sail at 1 p.m. on Friday. The distance travelled by the lakes and rivers is as under: Lake Huron is 250 miles in length, 100 miles wide, and from 100 to 750 feet in depth; St. Mary's River is 62 miles long, and Waikika Bay, at the bottom of Lake Superior, about 8 miles long; Lake Superior, the largest fresh water lake in the world, is 360 miles long, and 140 miles in its widest part, an average width of 85 miles, 800 feet deep in its deepest portion; the bottom is said to be 200 feet below the sea level. It takes a circuit of 1,500 miles to get round it, and has an area of 32,000 square miles; over 200 rivers pour their waters into it, draining, it is said, an area 100,000 square miles. The water is very green, extremely clear, very cold, and has plenty of fish. There are, along the north shore, a great number of islands, among the most important from size being Isle Royal, said to be over 40 miles long and 10 wide. If we are to believe our American cousins, Lake Superior will one day become a famous place, seeing it is here our tight little island is to find its last resting place, or as they put it, "We could dump your little island in one of our lakes and have a sail around to find where it had gone to."

31st October.—Arrived at Duluth, a rising town of 5,000 inhabitants. It is a town of some importance, or likely to become so, being at the western end of the great chain of lakes and the terminus of the Northern Pacific Railroad and of the St. Paul and Duluth Railroad, which runs south to St. Paul. The trains all run to the harbour on wood piles (the borders of the lake being shallow) which have a strange appearance. Went aboard train at 5 p.m., and took "sleepers" for Glyndon. It soon got dark, so missed the grand sights said to be seen on this part of the route.

1st November.—On wakening up early in morning found we had arrived on the boundless prairies of Minnesota. Arrived at Glyndon for breakfast, and started on our way for St. Vincent at 7 a.m., where we arrived at 6 p.m., all day passing over one vast and seemingly boundless prairie, where we could see for miles and miles,

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with little to break the extensive view farther than an occasional village or town on the railroad and a belt of timber in the distance to our left, no doubt the site of the now famous Red River of the north, the railroad running almost parallel with the river to Winnipeg. Passed some cultivated land now and again, and for miles and miles in a straight line through a blackened country, caused by prairie fires running, or rather blazing, over the country; one farm, said to be some thousand acres in extent, the only indication that it was so being piles and piles of straw and half a dozen self-binding reapers and other implements taking care of themselves, having neither shed nor straw to cover them; all seemed desolate, and will be so till the husbandman returns in spring again to plough, sow, reap, and thresh another crop. Most of these large wheat-growing farms are only occupied 5 or 6 months. Plenty and to spare of what looked like fine land, and, where wheat had been, the stubble looked as if it had been a good crop. The first look of a vast prairie country, even in autumn, can never be forgot, and I am told that in spring, when the whole bursts out in green grass, packed with flowers of all hues, the scene is really lovely. Left St. Vincent, on the border line, for St. Boniface, opposite Winnipeg and Fort Garry, at 7-10 p.m., the distance being 65 miles, which we accomplished in 8½ hours. The rails on this road were only laid in spring, with no stations built nor water tanks erected. So great was the hurry to carry emigrants and their baggage and goods to Winnipeg and supplies for the Selkirk end of C.P.R.R. that they had no time to wait for these things, and as frost had set in our engine was obliged to put its hose into a good many holes in the ditch ere water enough could be got to send us on our way. However, one does not feel delays on American railroads so much as at home, as each carriage has a stove and water-closet at each end, and one is quite comfortable even on a cold frosty night. These delays will soon be remedied, as the stations were nearly all completed when we left, and a good part of the road is now sand ballasted. This ballast has to be hauled from Bird Hill, some eight or ten miles north of Winnipeg, the only road or ballast material we saw near Winnipeg.

It seems a very simple affair making a railroad in these prairie countries. So many feet are marked off as the track, a ditch is dug on each side, and the earth thrown on what is to be the road, thus raising it a couple of feet or so above the land, which helps to keep the line clear of snow. If a river is to be crossed there is always timber at hand for a bridge, and if this is not strong enough it is not for want of material. Smaller bridges are formed by piling square logs above each other till sufficient height is attained, and then bearers across. The plan is simple, strong, and easily renewed. The part of the road not yet ballasted has earth filled in between the sleepers, and John Frost has hardened up the whole beautifully. Arrived at St. Boniface at 3 a.m. on Sunday morning, in place of 11 p.m. on Saturday, and were told the best plan was to take 'bus for Winnipeg. We got the 'bus, which took us to the river side, and was to have charged a quarter for leaving us there. That did not suit us, so our friend, the 'busman, left us there to find our way as we best could. Some of the passengers paid, so they were invited to a drive for nothing to see if lodgings could be had. We heard of a hotel near, so had a race with the 'bus for first foot, and beat him, and so got under cover. The frost had frozen over the river hard enough to prevent the ferry working; but not hard enough to allow walking on the ice, and there is no bridge. So much for our arrival in the far West.

2nd November, Sunday.—Got up and found there was no communication across the Red River—two or three speculative spirits were at last equal to the occasion by bridging it with planks, each plank end on to its neighbour and the other end forward on the ice and so over. I hope the spec paid them, and it ought, seeing they charged 10 cents, or 5d, toll for each passenger. Who would pay the damage if one fell through did not seem to trouble them much.

Got put up at Canada Pacific Hotel at last; had a wash-up in ice and a walk to the junction of the Assiniboine River with the Red River, at Fort Garry, and saw a number of people trying to get the river steamers into safe positions on the former for the winter. All these are flat-bottomed, painted white and driven by a paddle-wheel hanging out behind all the breadth of the stern. Thermometer stood about

zero, yet we did not feel it cold, as the air was dry and clear, in fact refreshing. Went to English Church in the evening with the Chief Inspector of Post Office, Mr. Dewie, a very fine stone church, and got a very good sermon.

3rd November.—Met in hotel Mr. Dewie above, Mr. Connolly, a special correspondent of the *London Times*, and Mr. Whitehead, one of the contractors on the west end of the Canada Pacific Railway. Several townsmen called upon us and all were very kind in offering us every assistance in their power to enable us to see their adopted country. Amongst others, we were much indebted to Mr. Desbrowe, who had piloted one of the parties before us to Mr. Ross, senior partner of the firm of Ross, Ross & Hillam, solicitors and land agents, Mr. Gerrie, merchant, and Mr. Hespeler, the Government Agent. After seeing on the map the places the other delegates had gone to, we resolved first to inspect the country for 30 or 40 miles around the Capital, Winnipeg, and second to visit the south-west district beyond the Pembina, where a number had taken up homesteads during the year, and where others were still to be had.

Mr. Dewie gave us a good deal of useful information about the postal arrangements since Manitoba formed part of the Dominion. He was sent here in 1871 by the Government to appoint postmasters sufficient for the population and appointed 29 in all; between 1871 and 1879, 30 more were appointed; this summer he was again sent to go over the whole province and re-arrange the whole postal system for the North-West country. He found it necessary to double the total number, making 118 post offices in all. He also told us that every part of Manitoba will now have at least one mail weekly. Mr. Connolly, a genial and racy Irishman, was very kind and seemed to have taken a particular fancy to Manitoba, even after seeing and living in most of the States of the Union, and in most of the provinces of the Dominion. He makes it a particular study to have all reliable information about every state and province in America, and has always figures in plenty to clench his statements, and his letters to the *Times* have deserved and commanded attention from all interested. Mr. Connolly met the Royal Commissioners and the other Farmer Delegates; has been residing here for some months and means to reside some months more to see what a Manitoba winter is like on the spot, and I would advise all to look out for his letters on the subject, as I am sure we shall get the truth whoever it may please or offend. He thinks it one of the finest wheat-growing regions in the world, capable of sustaining one hundred millions of people if it were cultivated as Scotland is cultivated.

I have been asked often since I came home the pertinent question, "If Manitoba is such a fine country as it is said to be, how is it that it was not settled up long ago?" I will not attempt to answer the question further than giving a few facts about its history, which, I may say, dates from 1870; i.e., so far as anyone was very much concerned other than the Hudson Bay Company.

In Mr. Grant's "Ocean to Ocean" the extent of territory now belonging to the Dominion of Canada, lying north of the United States, is thus described:—"Travel a thousand miles up a great river, more than another thousand along great lakes and a succession of smaller lakes, a third thousand across rolling prairies, and a fourth thousand through woods and mountains, and you have travelled from ocean to ocean through Canada." The middle two thousand miles was given or granted by exclusive charter to the Hudson Bay Company in 1670, for a hunting and trading ground. In 1783 the North-West Company was formed, as a private corporation, for trading in the valleys of the Red and Saskatchewan Rivers, &c., and in 1845 had some 60 trading posts in this region. In 1821 these two companies formed a coalition, continuing under the chartered name of the Hudson Bay Company.

This company continued in possession till 1863, when they sold their exclusive right to the Canadian Government, receiving \$1,500,000 cash, and one-eighteenth, or two sections of 640 acres each, in every township formed (a township is composed of 36 sections), besides special reservations about their trading posts, amounting to other 50,000 acres. This relinquishment was only completed in 1871, so that this vast territory of Manitoba and the Canadian North-West has only been open for

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settlement since the above date, or eight years. You will see it described in most maps as Prince Rupert's Land, or the Hudson Bay Territory. This vast territory is now divided into three districts or provinces, viz.: Keewatin, which extends from the western boundary of Ontario to the eastern boundary of Manitoba and along the north of it to the 100th parallel of longitude (west of Greenwich) and north to the Arctic, described as the region of lakes, woods and minerals. Second—Manitoba, the smallest of the three, yet it contains 14,340 square miles, almost the whole one vast prairie, and composed, it is said, of as rich soil as there is in the world. Some of it is the richest I ever saw. Third—The North-West, which extends from the western boundary of Manitoba and Keewatin to the eastern boundary of British Columbia. The country embraced in this territory is called the Region of Perfection for pure atmosphere, healthy climate, and dry, steady winters, with light snowfalls, and streams and springs of the purest water.

In Manitoba the Red River runs north from the boundary line to Lake Winnipeg. The Assiniboine runs east, through nearly the middle of the province, and joins the Red River at Fort Garry. The South and North Saskatchewan take their rise near the Rocky Mountains, and run in an easterly direction to the north end of Lake Winnipeg; all are navigable for great distances. The larger lakes are Lakes Winnipeg, Winnipegosis and Manitoba, also navigable during their entire length. The Pembina, Scratching and Salle Rivers flow east into the Red River through what is called the south-west district, or that lying between the boundary line and the Assiniboine River, to be noticed more in detail after. The only railway at present in the province is the one from Emerson, on the boundary line to Selkirk, there joining the Canada Pacific Railroad, to Thunder Bay, now in course of construction.

Winnipeg is now a stirring town of nearly 10,000 inhabitants. Ten years ago it did not contain as many hundreds. There are already in it four colleges—Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Methodist and Catholic—and a university supported and managed by a council drawn from each of these and the town. It has been in operation for eighteen months, and has been a success. There are, besides these colleges, the ordinary schools and a ladies' college. The number of excellent shops surprises one. There are a number of handsome churches and other buildings, mostly built of brick; and the spire on one of the former is a landmark for many miles.

With this short description of Manitoba generally, I shall here resume my diary of what I saw of it. Met in hotel Mr. Bannerman, from Ottawa, who had just returned from a three months' cruise on Lake Winnipeg and the Saskatchewan. He started, with a party of nine, in a boat, down the Red River to the lake, through Lake Winnipeg to the Saskatchewan, up that river for some distance, and then explored the district west of Lake Winnipegosis and Lake Manitoba; selected land for a colony on the west side of Winnipegosis, and is to come back with them in the spring. Also, Mr. Raine, an assistant surveyor, who was out in same district all summer surveying wood lots for sale. Both described the district to the west of Winnipegosis and Manitoba Lakes as one teeming with fish and game, and any quantity of fine tracts of agricultural land with plenty of running streams. There is already an English settlement in this district. Met Mr. M'Arthur, agent of Merchants' Bank of Canada, who gave us a great deal of information about the country generally. Had a long crack with Mr. Gerrie, a canny Aberdonian, piloting his way pretty well. Two of our party went to visit his farm, Mr. Gordon and I going to Selkirk, a 25-mile drive down the west side of the Red River. Immediately outside Winnipeg the land is wet and marshy nearly all the way, unless within a mile or so of the river. Passed through Kildonan, all settled by Lord Selkirk's Highlanders or their descendants. Passed through Mr. McBeth's farm, on one field of which 54 successive crops of wheat have been sown, and all excepting three reaped, these being eaten with grasshoppers. I have brought a sample of this soil home with me, which anyone can see. Intended to have got it and two others from the prairie analyzed, but find the cost would be too great and too late for this report. Most of the land on this trail will require draining before it will grow much; this, however, will be a simple matter, as the land slopes to the river and will only require open ditches to take off surplus water. The

land is a black vegetable mould, varying in depth from two to 20 feet deep some say. The deepest I saw was about seven, all lying on a blue, friable clay subsoil, some of which seems to be mixed all through the upper soil, most likely by the action of frost. The trails at present are fine to drive on owing to the frost. One could easily see in wet weather it must be rather a sticky job getting about. All roads here are simply Indian trails, with no metal or gravel. In frost they are very good, and the more travelled on the better; no stones of any kind seen. The land along Red River is all laid off in long strips, 20 and 40 chains, along the river, and four miles back. The houses are mostly erected near the river, along which there is a fringe of wood varying from a mile in depth. This supplies the settlers with firewood and building material, and outside of this most have a small enclosed field for wheat, potatoes, etc., the land being, in many cases, very dirty, and little of it turned up for next crop. The easiest system of farming seems to be considered the best—at any rate it is the system most adopted by these early settlers, most of whom, or their fathers, had been servants of the Hudson Bay Company. Passed two churches and one hotel on our way to Selkirk. Nearing Selkirk, the land is even more wet, with quantities of willow and white poplar. Selkirk is quite a small village, and I fear the chances of the C.P.R.R. crossing here are small, owing to the power and importance of its now more populous rival, Winnipeg. The western terminus of the C.P.R.R. to Thunder Bay, on Lake Superior, is on the east side of the river, and also that of the R.R., via St. Boniface to Emerson. It is now proposed to build the bridge at Winnipeg, and preparations are made to lay the rails on the ice to carry over the contractor's plant and supplies for a railway, said to be contracted for 150 miles west to some point south of Lake Manitoba, and will see by the map that the now proposed Canada Pacific is located on the fourth base line instead of going north-west from Selkirk to the north end of Lake Manitoba. Between Selkirk and the end of Lake Winnipeg is a large Indian Reserve. Saw here a number of them warmly clad in skins and furs, and all wearing moccasins. Saw also a good number of half-breeds, many of whom are squatters, along the Red River.

4th November.—Frost very keen all day, with clear, bright sunshine. River not yet safe to get horses across, so could only go west up the Assiniboine. Visited Hudson Bay Company's stores at Fort Garry, soon to be no more, as we were told the present buildings are all to come down to give place to a continuation of the present main street to the river; drove to Buffalo Farm and Park, the residence of the Hon. Mr. McKay, a native, and one of the Senators of the province; saw a small herd of buffaloes in a semi-wild state. They are enclosed in a large park along with some native cattle by a wire fence about 4 feet high. Saw the two crosses from a native cow and buffalo bull. They take more after the dam than the bull, and are curious looking creatures. After several attempts, got the lot set a galloping in order to see the true buffalo gait; it is a sort of gallop or canter. Passed a prairie fire a short distance from town, several miles in length, scouring away northwards. After dark there were no less than three visible from the hotel; the one to the east looked quite close; was astonished when told it was more than twenty miles off. The effect was very pretty, the streets being illuminated by the glare.

5th November.—Got horses across the Assiniboine, and started for a drive up the Salle River, under the guidance of Mr. Ross. Went south along the Red River by the main trail for eight miles, then across the prairie south of the Salle River for 12 miles or so more, camping out for lunch at what is said to be the ford where the buffaloes crossed not very long ago. Saw great numbers of prairie chicken; looked like a cross between a partridge and grouse, only they are larger than either. Passed on the trail a large steam boiler (must have weighed a good many tons) which crossed the river on the ice before us. The trail leads up the Red River through the bush, which extends for a mile or two on each side of the river, so saw little till we came to the open prairie after crossing the Salle, looked like grand wheat land; had been run over by fire; nothing to be seen in the midst of the blackness unless an occasional hay stack or some settler's log hut. This district is only partially settled being a half-breed minor's reserve, and will only be open for sale next year. I may

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here explain what is meant by Indian half-breed and minor's reserves. When the Government bought out the Hudson Bay Company they gave a homestead of 160 acres to every Indian and half-breed of 21 and upwards, and reserved the same quantity of land for all minors 10 years old, of which they get possession when of age. All these lands were reserved in different districts of the country, and are called Indian half-breed or minor reserves, each individual having power to sell if he did not care to occupy. Most of them sell the land, as they had never lived upon it, and this is how large tracts of land are bought and speculated in. Some fine farms could be bought here, less than 20 miles from Winnipeg, for 2 dollars and 2½ dollars per acre, say 10s., with nothing to do but plough and sow, and plenty of fine meadow hay for the cutting. Got back about dusk, and was invited to meet a number of gentlemen at dinner who wished to meet us. The Mayor, Mr. Logan, a native, occupied the chair. Had two very interesting orations, one from Mr. Taylor, for many years U. S. Consul at Winnipeg, the other from our companion at table, and formerly mentioned, Mr. Connolly, of *The Times*. The gist of both speeches I had seen previously in the local papers, and as I saw their articles copied into many United States' papers as well as Canadian, I shall quote from these later on. This party was quite an informal one, and only given to wish us speed on our mission. We did not shine in the speech-making line. I hope they will understand our business was to get information, and to listen to what they had to tell us. Mr. Brown, Secretary of one of the Public Departments, who asked his friends to meet us, I now thank for the unexpected treat. Mr. Taylor, U. S. Consul, has made himself famous all over the continent by his advocacy of the Great North-West Belt being the wheat garden of the world, and that the bulk of this garden lies north of the 49th parallel, or the boundary line between the United States and Canada; that the belt south of the 49th parallel to Ohio is the great corn and maize growing region of the world, and that the belt south of Ohio is the great cotton growing region of the world. Whether this is the fact or otherwise, most of the Eastern States in the Cotton Belt grow little wheat or corn; most in the Middle Belt grow nearly all maize, and there is no doubt in the North-West Belt wheat is grown both in greatest quantity and quality.

6th November.—Started on a two days' tour to see the land between the railway and the Red River, on the east side, and was fortunate in getting Mr. Ross's brother to accompany us.

Crossed the Red River at north end of city on the ice. Here it is where the rails are laid down to the river on each side, waiting for John Frost to get a little keener in order to lay the rails on the ice. Drove to Niverville Station, 25 miles, taking the trail between the railway and river all the way—first few miles through bush, scrub, and willow, passing a few half-breed settlements on the way—latter part through some very good dry prairie with few settlers. At the station Mr. Hespeler has erected a very conspicuous elevator for grain on a new principle. The building is like an immense cask on end, only the staves are about 18 inches apart, and the hoops go round and round outside and inside. This shape of building is said to be much stronger for storing grain than a square one; the pressure, being even all round, is never directed against any one side or end. The steam elevator is placed in the centre, also a circle boarded up the same way. This one holds 3,500 bushels, and looks very small. All grain in America is stored in bulk and carried loose in the trucks. This is the station for the eastern Mennonite settlement, a number of whom came to Manitoba in 1874 from Russia. They are said to be a very quiet, industrious people. This settlement or reserve extends for many miles east of the railroad and a few miles south alongside the railway. Drove through a portion of their land along the line; most had good houses, some cattle, and good implements. Farming very primitive and land in many cases wet. Again crossed the railroad to the east side to inspect a farm bought the previous week by Major Groig, Montreal, for his sons, who are to come here for mixed farming in spring. The extent is 1,400 acres, price two dollars and a half or 10s. an acre. A good part of it is dry prairie, which is said to be fine wheat land if broke the first year and cropped the next. Part is oak and

rose scrub, said to be the best wheat land, and grows good crops first year; balance is what I would call small trees or bush, and will soon be valuable for fencing and building if only fires are kept out of it. It looks a desirable farm, being alongside a railway, and a slew (a sort of river) running through the middle of it.

Beyond this, or between it and the river, Mr. Ross told us they had a block of 960 acres for sale at the same price. Resolved to go and see it. There is far more brush or scrub on this till we bored our way through the young trees to the Rat River, which is rolling prairie mixed with rose trees and wild strawberries. On the river the soil seemed very rich and deep. Found our way with difficulty back to the waggon, and started for Otterbourne, the railroad station on the Rat River, about three and a-half or four miles distant. This tract of land, with some 680 acres added, lying adjacent, making 1,640 acres in all, was afterwards bought by one of our party, Mr. Gordon, the delegate from Dumfries, and it looks like a good bargain. There is plenty of good land on it; there will be any quantity of fencing timber on it in a year or two; there is a river as large as the Don running through the middle of it, and a slew beside; it is within 22 miles of Winnipeg, three and a-half from a railway station, and two miles from the Red River. A substantial man offered to clear off the bush, plough and sow the whole for six dollars an acre. Allowing four dollars more to harvest, thresh and drive to station, brings up the cost of the first crop to ten dollars, or 41s. 6d., per acre; add to this the total price of the land, 2½ dollars, or 9s. 4d.—making the grand total 50s. 10d. per acre. The usual estimate for such land to yield is from 30 to 40 bushels; to make sure of erring on the safe side, we shall put it at 20 bushels, the average of the province. The price of wheat at the station as we passed was about 68 cents per bushel; had been as high this season as 89 cents. At the former price, 20 bushels at 68 cents amounts to \$13.60 cents (56s. 8d.), thus leaving a profit of 5s. 10d. per acre, leaving the land free of rent for ever, and the whole ready to plough and sow for a second crop, which anyone can understand would be easier than the first. As will be seen, this is doing the whole by contract, and it can be done for the money at the present rate of wages. This puts the price of growing wheat for a first crop, estimating the yield at 20 bushels, 60 cents (2s. 6d.) per bushel; if the whole price of the land is added, or 50 cents (2s. 1d.) per bushel, if only the price of clearing, breaking, sowing, harvesting and driving to station is counted, I may state that \$8 is considered more than sufficient to do the whole by contract after the first crop, but allow it costs \$10 every year, and taking the yield at 30 bushels, would show wheat can at present be grown in Manitoba for 34 cents per bushel, or 11s. 4d. per quarter. The present freight to Liverpool is very high, being all by rail, and costs about 22s. per quarter, making the price of wheat on Liverpool dock, after being carried nearly 6,000 miles, only 33s. 4d. per quarter with a 30 bushel crop, and 38s. 8d. with a 20 bushel one. It is estimated the carriage from Winnipeg by the Canada Pacific to Thunder Bay and Lakes to Quebec, thence to Liverpool, will not exceed 16s. per quarter, including insurance. In Mr. Connolly's letter of 18th October to *The Times* he puts the cost of growing in a different district at 45 cents per bushel and carriage at 65 cents, 4s. 5d. per bushel, or 35s. 4d. per quarter, delivered in Liverpool, with a profit to grower, grain dealer, railway and steamer.

Drove on to Otterbourne R.R. Station, on south side of Rat River, and got put up at a store. The house was only partly furnished, the previous one having been burnt three weeks before by a great prairie fire that swept along a great extent of country south of this. This prairie fire is said to be one of the largest for many years. It started in Minnesota and travelled some 300 miles in two days. These fires have been very destructive this year owing to the dry autumn. Few of the new settlers took the trouble, or possibly did not know how to protect their houses. The plan adopted is very simple and easily done. To be of any use it must be done on the appearance of the first frost, if not done before, as these fires may come along any day after, either by ploughing a circle of two or three furrows at a little distance and burning the grass, or by cutting a few yards of the prairie all round the houses and straw. Saw plan of town at both stations. The towns have yet to be built. Anyone may have a town surveyed on his lot, and of course will be a lucky man if it becomes

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one. The plan must be registered, and blocks can only be given off according to plan, which makes all American towns and villages of whatever size regular as a chess-board, with streets a certain width and crossings at regular distances.

7th November.—Had a good sleep in the loft above the store and kitchen, and started across the Rat River, where we had to leave our machine last night. This bridge is a wooden one, and is a caution to cross on foot, there being only the cross beams to walk on, or rather to jump on from the one to the other. If big trees and plenty of them make a good bridge, I think this must be a strong one. Drove up Rat River for a few miles, saw some good land, and seemingly thriving farmers or squatters, also some very good native cattle. Again struck the Mennonite settlement, and circled round to the railroad, and had another drive over Major Greig's farm and others for sale. There is a great quantity of very poor prairie land in this quarter, some wet, and some spots of it with alkali. Started back for Winnipeg, same route as we came at 4.30, and got lost on the black prairie after dark, it being all but impossible to see or feel the trail. At last our advance guard tumbled into a dry ditch, which our guide knew to be one for leading off the water from the railway ditches. In the course of our groupings in the dark for trails we came upon a haystack, which the driver kept well in hand, as he thought it was our best chance for the night. Mr. Ross, however, was equal to the occasion, and after an hour or two we once more caught the main trail, and arrived at Winnipeg about midnight, very tired.

8th November.—Started for another two days' trip to Cook's Creek, about thirty miles on the north-east side of the town; drove through ten or twelve miles of wet meadow land, then alternately on dry prairie and meadow land for other fifteen. A great number of settlers in this district, mostly from Canada. In the calm, clear evening one could count homesteads by the score in a semi-circle round the edge of an immense hay meadow. Part of our party put up at a Mr. Edie's, Mr. Welsh and myself, along with our guide, going on to Mr. Ross's farm, in Millbrook Township, and had first-rate bachelor fare in bachelor hall, and no mistake, there being no female about the place. Mr. Ross is the fourth brother of the same family now in Manitoba, their father being a farmer in Ontario. Mr. D. A. Ross has been over the country for miles and miles in all directions, showing his brothers' lands to intending purchasers, and prefers this district. He has now got his houses built and a few acres broke ready for seeding this spring; his land is mostly all scrub land, and is pretty closely covered with it all over. In the neighbourhood are plenty of settlers, plenty of wood, water and gravel for roads; the latter is a scarce commodity in most places.

9th November, Sunday.—Had to find our way back to Winnipeg; went by Springfield, Bird's Hill (Sand Ridge), striking the Red River at Kildonan; passed through an immense hay and marsh meadow, said to contain 5,000 to 10,000 acres; will be of little use till a ditch be opened to the river. All these marshes or meadows look as if they had lately been under water; in most cases they are surrounded by a fringe of good land a few feet higher, along which, in this case as in others, are the settlers' houses and farms, forming a circle round what had been a lake.

Most of the free lands are taken up, although there are plenty of farms for sale at from 8s. to 10s. an acre. Called at a farmer's on the way; did not find him at home; pulled up the window and had a look around; concluded our bachelor friend would be all the better of a wife. He had about 150 acres in crop this year; owing to his absence could get no particulars. It is only three years since he bought it. We were told his only help was one man, so that he has done pretty well in the way of cropping. Saw no stock other than a pair of work bullocks, his two pairs horses being away to town with wheat. Of implements, he has at least a good supply of reapers, as we saw three, one of them a McCormack self-binder, and like those already mentioned, not even a cover on it; still there was not a speck of rust to be seen, showing the climate must be a dry one. Called and dined at a farm on the way; was very kindly received and hospitably entertained, on the shortest notice, by his good wife and daughters (omitted to note the name). He squatted here some years ago, and has done pretty well, considering he started with little capital and had to

haul cord wood to the town to support his family, breaking his land as he found opportunity. He came from Canada, I think, in 1870, has brought up a large family, and says he prefers the climate to Ontario. It is colder in winter, but the air is so dry they don't feel the cold so much as they did there. He says all kinds of crops grow well, including turnips. Saw his own in a cellar cut out of the face of the hill, which were rather small sizes. They were grown on the gravel ridge. He told us they had now got up a school, which we passed, and would soon be independent. Passed over the gravel ridge at Bird's Hill; had a good view from it, including a sight of the church spire at Winnipeg, distant some 15 miles; thin soil; saw a few sheep and cattle on it apparently thriving and in good condition. Passed a church on the face of the hill; crossed the railroad from Winnipeg to Selkirk, now nearly completed; from this hill is got all the railway ballast. Joined the Red River at Kildonnan; the land here, as on the other side, is mostly occupied by Scotch Highlanders; cannot say much in admiration of the Highlanders' farming; the land is certainly good, and they take full advantage of it; as in most cases the byre is situated in the most convenient place to get rid of the dung down the slope and ultimately into the river. All seem to take it very easy. Called on Senator Sutherland, who lives here, and was very kindly received. Presbyterian Church, evening.

10th November.—Having now had a look of the country around Winnipeg, we resolved to spend the day calling on those we had met previous to starting for the South-West district. As we did not intend returning to Winnipeg, all were most willing to give every information in their power, and we were better able to put two and two together, having seen a little of both Canada and Manitoba. Met Mr. Whitehead at dinner, one of the contractors on the west end of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, who commenced life, as he proudly told us, as stoker on George Stephenson's "Puffing Billy." He made the railroad from Emerson to Selkirk, and is at present busy with a large section of the Canada Pacific, which he also told us would likely be finished in 1884. On bidding him good-bye, he said, I have been making railways in different parts of the world all my life, and am now getting an old man, and you can tell your people at home from me "that there is any quantity of as fine land as the sun ever shone upon in this country, and for industrious men there is in the immediate future a bright prospect before them."

11th November.—Started with two teams and two drivers for Morris, 45 miles, going by main trail up the west side of Red River. Both sides of the river wooded all the way. Passed large tracts of good dry untouched prairie land. Near Morris some large wheat fields, the cleanest cultivated of any we had yet seen. Passed over what had been a field of barley, reaped two months before, and was astonished to find the heads of barley quite white and no sign of a sprouted ear, showing how dry the autumn must be compared at least with Aberdeenshire. Morris, a small scattered village, with three churches and a like number of hotels, stores, &c. Made arrangements for visiting the Cadenhead's settlement in the morning.

12th November.—Much disappointed, we could not get across the river either by ferry or ice to call on the Messrs. Cadenhead, one of whom is a brother of our respected Fiscal, and he has with him two nephews. From them I expected to get a correct notion of a settler's first year. They went from Fergus nearly two years ago. Started for Nelsonville, 40 miles west, passing the Lowe Farm, 8,000 acres, about ten miles out. Missed both Colonel Westover and Mr. Lowe, junior, both having gone to Ottawa to make arrangements for next spring. This was the only place water had not been got by digging 13 to 17 feet. Several trails had been made, one 104 feet, and as yet unsuccessful; at another, a few hundred yards away, a salt spring was tapped which may become valuable. The land here is very deep and rich, but a good part is at present too wet for cultivation till ditches are formed to take off the surplus spring water. Passed a homestead on the trail in apple-pie order. Two sons came from Ontario in April, 1878, the father in November; had 120 acres enclosed by a ring-fence, the form different from any we had seen, viz: an upright paling with a ditch on each side, a very good house and stable, 80 acres ready ploughed for next crop, some very good cattle, and everything very tidy.

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Passed one place where the straw and stable had been burned by a prairie fire, no precautions having been taken. In our 40-miles journey to-day we passed a good many homesteads, some fine dry prairie and no wood; passed a great quantity of wet marshy land that will require draining; in the season it must be a perfect paradise for duck shooting; did not pass a single running stream, but plenty of stagnant water in the marabes.

Arrived at Nelsonville at dusk, a village of a good few houses, including grist and saw mill, hotel and stores. At these new hotels in a new country the fare is not always very dainty; there is always plenty of it; rough and ready seems to suit best. Oats here 40 cents, wheat 60 cents, and barley 35 cents per bushel. An Irishman and an Englishman laid up here, having been caught in a prairie fire when out selecting land, and are badly burnt about the hands and face. When a fire is seen coming your way, the only safety is to light a fire and follow it for a hundred yards or so, when you are quite safe. These people knew how to save themselves, only in the flurry forgot to light their fire in time, and had to run through the flames. Called on Mr. Landerkin, land agent and registrar for the Dufferin District, all west of this point. At his office alone 400,000 acres of land were located last year, and about 900 families took up homesteads. Most were from Ontario, a few from the United States, and a good many from the Old Country. Here met Mr. Johnson, who came from the South of Scotland this year, located a large tract of land near Rock Lake, and is residing near the Messrs. Riddel, where some of the other delegates called.

13th November.—Left Nelsonville for Pembina River, 35 miles, crossing the Pembina Mountains about a mile from the town, no great feat, as they are only about 40 feet high. On this higher level there are large tracts of good prairie that looks like land sheep would do well on. The grass is short and thick, and the dry gravel sub-soil is not far off. Got to Mr. Bedford's, where we dined. He had been recommended to us as a guide. Did not find him at home, being off west of Rock Lake locating land. Also met Mr. Beech, land agent, Emerson, who afterwards joined us and was of great assistance, as he knew the country well. Passed Calf Mountain, well named, not being much bigger than a good-sized stack. Between here and the Pembina River there is some fine rolling prairie, but no running water till we got to the Little Pembina. The banks of the Pembina River are very steep on both sides, 200 feet or so, and the valley, with the at present small river winding about in it, is from 400 to 800 yards wide. A primitive-looking wooden bridge has been erected here on speculation by a homesteader, the toll for passing which is 50 cents per waggon and pair of horses. This looks dear, only I suspect the owner will find the price will have to come out of the first year's toll. This valley is very pretty. Along the bottom of it is covered with fine rich grass, and each bank lined with trees to the summit. One hamlet, the future home of a Scotchman we were told, is nestled on a sunny slope on one side of the valley, and a nice house has been erected by two Ontarians at the bridge for a stopping place. Five miles from the river came to our stopping place for the night, the homestead of Mr. Retan, who was the first homesteader to cross the Pembina, arriving here on the 1st April, 1879. It will give some idea of the rate at which this district is being taken up for settlement when I mention that all the land between here and Rock Lake, a distance of 40 miles, is taken up, and you can count not a few houses from his door. He has built for himself a very warm hut by surrounding his log-hut with sods or turf. I remember when the same sort of gables were quite common in Aberdeenshire, and think I could find some even yet. Here our game bag was unpacked, and was found to contain a few brace of prairie fowl shot from the waggon. These are very plentiful all over. Unfortunately, our gun was a borrowed one, and the cartridges got in the hurry of leaving turned out to be a dear and a bad bargain, as they were loaded with a minimum of powder and No. 1 shot, so that our chances of missing were great compared with that of hitting. However, the missing perhaps caused most fun. In one case a fox was seen near. An ardent sportsman was soon on his track and fired, causing the sly one to run a few yards, when he

turned round and had a good look at his foe. All turned to to pluck our birds for supper. Mr. Retan has already, besides his house up, a stable, well dug, hay in plenty, and 40 acres broke for cropping in spring. No loft this time, so had a good nap on the kitchen and dining-room floor, all in one, with the stove in the middle.

14th November.—Drove through fine prairie to Crystal City—a city of one house and a haystack. Dined and started for Rock Lake. Skirted the edge of a large wood with good building timber in it. Passed four men building a hut; it had all been put up that day, and when we came back it was ready for the roof. Reached the eastern end of Rock Lake, our furthest point west. This lake is simply a widening of the river, and one of many in its course, Lakes Louise and Lorne being other two westwards. It is a very pretty sheet of water, or rather ice, and reminds one very much of our lochs at home. The banks are very rugged, and wooded almost to the water's edge. The valley, scooped out by the Pembina, is here as wide as when we crossed it 30 miles down, and the Cyprus River joins the Pembina at the foot of the lake. After a good look at the pretty sheet of ice and the pretty scenery, we reluctantly turned our faces once more homewards, a distance of nearly 6,000 miles, after looking on one of the prettiest sights we had seen in the country. Called on Dr. Munro, near the lake, who came here in the spring with his wife and family. He has selected a spot that would cost some money here. In front of his door is a fine level field of a good many acres all ready for the plough, surrounded on all sides by wood and water. The doctor's people came from Inverness. Drove in a circle to Cyprus Crossing, which would make a much prettier site for a city, and is a much prettier river for the name, than Crystal River and city ever can do. On our way saw a couple of prairie wolves crossing a loch on the ice, and, unfortunately, mistook a collie dog sitting on his haunches in a wood for a third, which our driver, after a stalk, hit badly. As I saw the incident made the most of in a local paper, I note it. There was no romance about it, and all were sorry at the mistake made. No one had any doubt of him being a wolf; his breast and head were the same color, and no one was looking for a dog sitting on his haunches, with his fore paws up, with neither house nor people near. Got back to Mr. Parr's, Crystal City, where we slept the sleep of the tired in the usual loft. Here met a farmer from Ontario up to give his son a help to build himself a house, etc. Went to see a small patch (about two acres) of autumn wheat; it had been sown too late, as the frost had nipped it as it came up.

15th November.—Took sample of soil from under the sod, samples of wheat and oats grown this year on the sod, and sample of shale got immediately under the soil. This shale is said always to overlie coal, and it is now generally admitted that an immense coalfield lies under a great part of this North-West Territory. We saw a sample of coal, brought down by the surveyors, that was taken from a bed cropping out at the surface on the Souris River, some 70 miles west of this. A number of townships have been surveyed west of those marked on the map at Range XVII and XVIII, and will be open for settlement this spring on the terms in the land regulations that will accompany these reports, and vary in price from one dollar, in Belt E; to two and a-half, or 10s., in Belts A, B and C, i.e., to homesteaders—to buyers they vary from one to five dollars. In the district beyond this, or out at the Turtle Mountains, we were informed on good authority there is any quantity of heavy timber, more rolling prairie and more streams. Since we were there, I see by an Emerson paper that the coal seam on the Souris River is now being worked. The land about here is much lighter in color and texture, looks as if there were lime mixed with it, and as if it would grow fine barley. It does grow fine potatoes as we got the best we tasted in the country. They were planted partly under the sod and partly by hacking a hole and dropping in the seed. Mr. Parr stated he did not know which was the best crop, and both were good. He estimated his crop of wheat from the sod at 23 to 25 bushels, and it is a pretty one, as you can see by the sample.

Left and drove back same route till we crossed the Pembina, when we took a trail more to the south for Mountain City, crossing the main Missouri trail on the way. Passed over much the same kind of land as before; in fact, everywhere, so far

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as we saw it, the description would be dry prairie, hay, meadow marsh, and bush; and, begin again, the land westward getting more rolling, and, 'tis said, running water more plentiful. Mountain City at dusk; stopping at a general store, the proprietor of which kept a good deerhound and a cross-bloodhound for the chase; he had also a few specimens of rocks and minerals taken from his well. Slept in the loft as usual. He showed us some skins bought a few days before from the Indians, who had been hunting near here; also tanned skin and very fine head and antlers of a moose deer.

16th November.—Mountain City sits upon the slope of a hill, and from it, looking eastward, you see what must have been a vast inland lake. Northward, you can trace the high ground, its boundary, and in the frosty morning's mist you fancy you see the waters beating up and down on the beach. In the distance the Mennonites' houses and bits of bush here and there could easily be mistaken for ships and rocks. Drove by a very fine road, or rather trail, through the west Mennonite settlement. Stopped at one of their houses, and was shown over it and the barn adjoining. All was very clean, and the house well furnished, only hot as a baker's oven. In the barn were some good implements, cattle and horses. All the houses are built of wood and thatched, and look very comfortable. While the horses were being fed, we walked through the village and on to the next one, a mile or so further on. Passed a church, with 20 or 30 teams tied to the paling; a grist mill driven by wind. The streets are wide and well kept; both villages had a look of comfort and plenty about them. They are said to be a very stolid, frugal and industrious people; go in for few enjoyments of any kind, mix with no outsiders, and refuse to fight on any consideration. Many stories are told of their untidiness; however that may be, they have at present by far the best houses and most crop in the country. Each village is managed by a Reeve or Mayor of its own, who settles all disputes, collects insurance money if there is a fire, each paying their proportion, and other business of the village. Then they have a head Reeve or Mayor over the whole settlement, who makes contracts of all sorts—in short, wholesale buyer for the whole community, and selling the produce in the same way, thus ensuring smaller prices for implements bought and larger prices for produce in big quantities. They have laws of their own which are strictly observed; in other words, they govern themselves, and it is understood they come under no law to fight for the land of their adoption nor to pay taxes for a certain number of years.

They are said to spend little money, are fast becoming rich, and said to live very mean—or first their cattle, then their pigs, and last the people; this latter I think a slur on a thrifty people. It is easily seen they are doing well, and they seem to be taking life pretty easy. None are ever seen in a hurry, and they say never have been. Settlers west of them grumble badly at them getting so much land reserved for them that they have never occupied, while Canadians must now go nearly 100 miles west of the railway ere they can get homesteads. Met one or two moving bag and baggage from the east Mennonite settlement. The boundary line is marked off by metal posts inserted at each mile, marked East, West, U.S. on the south side and Canada on the north. Stopped at Smuggler's Point to feed man and beast. Here is stationed a Custom House officer to look after duties. This point is situated at the corner of a large forest, stretching far away into Dakota, and so gets its name. No cattle are allowed to pass either way unless paying a duty of 40 per cent. To one born with free trade notions this looks absurd, as on one side there may be cattle in plenty and to spare, and on the other a want. Still the heavy duty must be paid ere even cattle can cross, and the present regulations of this country do not allow any living cattle to be sent from the States into Canada. This duty on cattle is the height of protection, and, in my opinion, the pinnacle of folly. Our host, who settled here before the boundary line was fixed, found his house in the States and most of his land in Canada, so, having to choose his master, went over with his house and became an American.

Started on the boundary line for Emerson, passed some good large farms on both sides, and one large farm belonging to one of the Mennonites, where were a number of cattle in good condition, and some folded in a large yard. During the sixteen days we have been in Manitoba, we have driven nearly 500 miles, one-half of this distance during the past six days, with the same teams, which says a good deal for the endurance of their horses.

As it may be interesting to some, I here give an extract from the *Times'* special's letter of 18th October, on the Athabasca and Peace River Valleys, as none of the delegates have visited either, and also his estimate of growing and carrying to Liverpool, with a profit to all, a bushel of wheat:

"But further north over the Canadian frontier are valleys as fertile and prairies as extensive as those of the Red River, some of them scarcely yet opened up for cultivation. Wheat of fine quality is grown on the Athabasca and Peace Valleys, which, although north of latitude 55 degrees, are stated to have a genial climate, and produce flowers and fruits in as great perfection as in localities many hundred miles south. The Peace River Valley is estimated to have an area of 100,000 square miles. The North and South Saskatchewan, which, with rapid flow, run a thousand miles from the Rocky Mountains into Lake Winnipeg, are described as traversing immense areas of alluvial soil, while along their banks are beautifully sheltered, well watered spots adapted for stock-raising. Five hundred miles west of Winnipeg is the Prince Albert Settlement, established about two years ago, now numbering 600 inhabitants, busily engaged in mixed husbandry, but in such a remote region sensibly devoting special attention to the raising of cattle, which, amid abundance of good grass, can be produced at little more than the cost of herding, and can tolerably comfortably carry themselves to market. Starting also in the Rocky Mountains and likewise pursuing an easterly course, and discharging its waters into Lake Winnipeg, is the Assiniboine, which, with many important tributaries, waters, especially on its northern aspect, an enormous tract of good country, which might absorb thousands of settlers, and when opened up, as is being done by the Canadian Pacific Railway, and the often discussed lake, river and canal system, might export millions of bushels of wheat. On the authority of the Legislative Assembly in Manitoba, it is estimated that the total wheat area of the North-West is about 380,000 square miles. The cheap land, one great element in this country's greatness, is here; the cheap transport so necessary properly to utilize the cheap land is being gradually secured.

Five years ago the resources of Manitoba were so imperfectly developed that the wheat, beef and pork requisite for the western military posts, for the police and Hudson Bay stations, for the thinly-scattered hunters and settlers spread over the Riding Hills, and extending onwards towards the Rocky Mountains, were in a great part forwarded to Winnipeg from the East. Now the 200 bullock teams which start thence in the spring for their 1,000 miles journey north-west to collect the furs, as well as the boats, many of sixty tons burden, which ascend the rivers on the breaking of the ice towards the end of April, are mainly laden with wheat and flour grown and ground in the province, and with home-reared beef and bacon. Five miles from Winnipeg, at the Scotch colony of Kildonnán, founded 40 years ago, there are about 1,000 industrious agriculturists occupied in mixed husbandry, few of them with more than 160 acres, but all prosperous and contented. The land, a few years ago exhausted by wheat growing, has lately been better managed, and, although not clear, grows twenty-five bushels of wheat and double that amount of oats. The hard yellow corn preferred by the distillers is successfully produced. Potatoes do admirably in the friable loam, swedes and clover flourish. The annual rainfall, including melted snow, is about twenty-five inches. The highest summer temperature is 95 degrees; the lowest winter cold is 40 degrees, which proves sometimes rather trying. At Selkirk, a rising town on the Canadian Pacific line, where it crosses the Red River, twelve miles north of Winnipeg, the railway cuttings are furnishing capital limestone rock and brick earth and shingle, all of which are being freely used for building purposes."

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The cost of a bushel of wheat grown in Minnesota, Dakota, or Manitoba, and forwarded to Great Britain, are subjoined in tabular form:—

	Cents.
Cost of growing.....	45
Transit to Duluth, or other entrepôt.....	15
Elevator charges.....	1½
Transit to seaboard.....	15
Ocean freight.....	18
Marine insurance and commission.....	3
Contingencies for enhanced freights, &c.....	12½

110—4s. 5d

Satisfactory as such figures are to the British consumer, they are not very encouraging to the British wheat grower. For his fuller-berried wheat, richer in starch, but poorer in gluten, he certainly gets 3s. or 4s. per quarter more than can be had for the foreign spring wheat. But £2 or even two guineas a quarter, which is all that English wheat can be calculated to make on an average of years, cannot, under present conditions, remunerate the English agriculturist.

Sergeant Price, of the Canadian Mounted Police at Battleford; Mr. James Stewart, of the Canadian Signal Service at Winnipeg; Sergeant Cone, of the United States Signal Corps at St. Paul; and Mr. G. C. Rainboth, Dominion Civil Engineer at Quebec, have kindly furnished the materials of the following:—

TABLE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE.

	Toronto.	St. Paul.	Winnipeg.	Battleford.
August.....	65·38	72·00	67·34	67·79
September.....	58·18	60·06	52·18	47·10
October.....	45·84	46·03	35·84	34·52
November.....	36·06	38·03	30·66	28·66
December.....	25·78	19·03	11·97	6·48
January.....	22·80	16·03	6·10	0·45
February.....	22·74	15·02	12·32	10·25
March.....	28·93	33·01	14·14	16·80
April.....	40·72	50·04	39·10	46·70
May.....	51·74	58·07	53·13	53·35
June.....	61·85	67·09	63·20	60·45
July.....	67·46	73·05	68·19	63·95
Yearly means.....	44·04	45·62	34·76	34·82

A statement of mean temperature during the agricultural season, from April to August inclusive, exhibits the following proportions:—Toronto, 57 degrees 65 minutes; St. Paul, 65 degrees 5 minutes; Winnipeg, 58 degrees 19 minutes; Battleford, 58 degrees 53 minutes. Thus it will be seen that the climate, in its relation to agriculture, is warmer in Manitoba and over territory 700 miles north-west, than in the most central district of Ontario; while St. Paul, in latitude 45 degrees, is 7 degrees 40 minutes warmer than the vicinity of Toronto, in latitude 44 degrees.

I hope to be in possession of similar statistics at Fort McMurray, on the Athabasca River, and Fort Vermilion, on Peace River, respectively 1,000 and 1,200 miles due north-west of Winnipeg, and I have full confidence that the climate at these points will not be materially different from Battleford. The altitude of the Athabasca and Peace River Districts is less, and the trend of the Pacific winds through the Rocky Mountains is more marked than at Battleford. It was on the banks of Peace River, well up in latitude 60 degrees, that Sir Alexander Mackenzie records on the

10th of May the grass so well grown that buffalo, attended by their young, were cropping the uplands.

PRICE LIST OF IMPLEMENTS, ETC., AT WINNIPEG.

Breaking ploughs, \$25 to \$29.
Common do \$15 to \$21.
Reapers, \$140 to \$160.
Mowers, \$80 to \$100.
Reapers and mowers combined, \$180 to \$200.
Horse hay rakes, \$ 5 to \$15.
Waggons, American manufacture, as good as made in Canada, \$85 to \$95.
Ranning mills, \$30 to \$45.
Sjades, \$ each.
Shovels, \$1 25.
Hay forks, 75 cents.
Manure forks, \$1 each.
Harrow, \$15 to \$35.

The prices of the following staple articles will give some idea of the cost of living in Manitoba:—

Tea, per lb., 50 to 55 cents.
Sugar, per lb., 10 to 12 cents.
Coffee, per lb., 22 to 33 cents.
Tobacco, black, 50 cents.
Tobacco, smoking, 50 to 55 cents.
Coal oil, per gallon, 50 cents.
Syrup, per gallon, 75 to 80 cents.
Pails, each, 3 hoops, 30 cents; 2 hoops, 25 cents.
Tubs, 16 inch, 90 cents each.
A good stout suit of clothing for a man, from \$8 to \$15.
Blankets, grey, per pair, \$1.50 to \$3.
Canadian blankets, white, per lb., 55 to 75 cents.
Cotton, per yard, white, 8 to 12½ cents; grey, 8 to 12 cents.
Prints, 8 to 12 cents; wineys, 8 to 25 cents.
Woollen stockings, per pair, 25 to 30 cents.
Flannel shirts, each, 75 cents to \$1.25.
Men's boots, \$2 to \$3.
Women's boots, \$1.25 to \$1.75.
Felt hats, 75 cents to \$1.

In household fittings the following prices are quoted for good plain articles:—

Table, \$3.50 to \$4.
Chair, 75 cents to \$1.
Bedstead, \$4 to \$1.50.
Bureau, \$8 to \$12.
Kitchen stove, No. 8, good, with complete furniture, \$27.
Cup and saucer, 8 to 15 cents.
Plate, 8 to 20 cents.
Coal oil lamp, 60 cents to \$1, complete.
Axes, \$1.25 to \$1.50.

In building material:—

Good plain lumber, \$20 to \$40 per M.
Good dressed lumber, \$30 to \$60 per M.
Shingles, \$4 to \$6 per M.
Laths, \$5.

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Nails, 5 cents per lb., or \$4 per keg.
 Lime, 25 cents per bushel at the kiln.
 Doors, \$1.50 to \$2.50 each.
 Sash, 8 x 10, \$1 per pair.
 A good single harness, \$15 to \$20.
 do double do \$30 to \$35.

17th November.—Called on Registrar in Emerson, who showed us sample of wheat on the straw, grown 25th May and reaped 26th August, good head with short straw; sample of timothy grass, 4 feet long, head 5 inches. Emerson is four years old, has now 1,000 inhabitants; has four churches, Young Men's Institute, and some very fine stores; has free library, Episcopalian Methodist, and Canadian Methodist churches building, the former to cost \$5,000, the latter \$10,000; 85 new buildings since May; 2 weekly newspapers, the first started in 1878, when there was only three stores, a hotel and a stable in the place. Left Emerson in the afternoon, for Chicago; first-class fare, \$34. Stopped a short time on the way at Minneapolis, the great flouring metropolis of the States, and where is seen the waters of the great Mississippi River driving mills of all sorts to its last drop. It may give some idea of some of the water powers in America and Canada by stating that the flouring mill we were shown over has a lade 13 feet wide and the water in it 7 feet deep, lading their continuous way to the turbine wheel to drive this one mill. Also stopped at St. Paul and Milwaukee, where a kind reception was given us by A. Mitchell, Esq., banker and railway president, a well known man in the West, and an Aberdonian. Driving round Milwaukee, saw for the first time what is very common all over America, at the farm of Mr. M'Geoch, an artesian well, 1,080 feet deep, and was told it throws the water 80 feet above the surface. I wonder where the water comes from as there is no land or water either so high as this for many miles? The farm, I should think, is about 200 feet above Lake Michigan. Arrived in Chicago on the 22nd, and stayed till 26th, seeing the sights of the great city of the West.

Although foreign to this report on Canada, I may mention that the stockyards, pig packeries, cattle packeries, and elevators are worth going a long way to see.

As the prices here have some effect on Canadian as well as American markets, I shall give a few facts about these three great trades, viz:—cattle, pigs and wheat. Chicago stockyards cover over 200 acres; buyers of cattle are all mounted. Messrs. Martin Brothers (brothers-in-law of Mr. Welsh), kindly showed us round; pigs in market this day (a Monday, and said to be a sort of off-day), 37,500, all sold by live weight; for sows, in pig, 40 lbs., and stags 80 lbs., shrinkage is deducted; average price this day, \$3.90 per 100 lbs.; 18 per cent. is deducted from live weight to find the dressed weight of pigs; commission for selling, 10 cents each; car holds 60; scales weigh about 100 at a time. The official numbers for last week were 264,972. Cattle this day, 4,400; last week, 20,285; some very good. Prices ranged from \$3 per 100 lbs. for Texans, up to \$4.90 for graded steers, and \$5.25 was paid for what they called a fancy lot, being good three-parts shorthorn steers, weighing 1,715 lbs. each, down to \$2 for light and thin cows, stags, bulls, and scalawag steers (whatever they are). Cattle kill 54 to 58 lbs. for ordinary and 60 lbs. per 100 for Texans. Commission for selling, 50 cents each. Number of sheep not given. The top lot of 447 is quoted at \$4.50, average 123 lbs. weight. The totals for October were, cattle 120,555; hogs 710,502; sheep 29,243.

Was shown over a pig killing establishment, kill 8,000 a day, 1,600 men employed; also over a cattle packing place killing 800 a day; all cattle are speared; the 16 we saw dropped was done in less than two minutes. There are 22 killing and packing establishments round the stockyards, some killing more, most less, and most of this immense bulk of meat and pork is being salted and packed, in order to be sent to that hungry auld country Great Britain and Ireland. Was shown over one of Messrs. Armour & Dodd's elevators, capacity 1,800,000 bushels. A car holds 500 bushels. Ten of these can be emptied, elevated to the roof, and weighed to an ounce

in ten minutes. At the same time a ship can be loaded in a few hours on the opposite side. It takes a 700 horse power engine to work the elevators, &c. The driving belt is 275 feet long and 4 feet broad. Storage costs 4 cents a bushel from 15th November to 15th April, 10 days ditto, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents, and $\frac{1}{2}$ cent more for every 10 days. Wheat at present 6 cents higher in Chicago than Liverpool, i.e., after adding freight and insurance, caused by a large corner here and in New York. Chicago elevators hold about 20 million bushels.

26th November.—Left Chicago for New York, spending a short time in Bloomington, Champaign, Indianapolis, Columbus, Pittsburg, Harrisburg, Baltimore, Washington, Philadelphia and New Jersey.

Sailed on 7th December, from New York, in same ship, S.S. "Devonia," and arrived at Glasgow all safe and sound on Wednesday afternoon, the 17th, after a smart and wet passage.

SUMMARY.

I.—REGARDING ONTARIO.—Any one will have noticed who has followed me thus far, that I was travelling here in my own way, mostly getting my information from farmers to whom I had introductions, most of whom, or their forefathers, had gone from the northern part of this country. As I said in my introduction, I say again, I do not intend to advise anyone *pro* or *con*. I have simply reduced to writing in a rough way what I saw. I will say, any one going there will know little difference from home. I am sure he would not know so much difference as he would by moving into a neighbouring county at home, and would find a heartier welcome. He would find himself surrounded by his own race, be he English, Scotch or Irish; find churches of his own denomination and plenty of them; find as good ordinary schools as at home without even school fees to pay; find life and property as safe and himself nearly governed by the same laws as at home, the principal difference being that each province manages its own local affairs, and last and not least, he can farm his own land with about the same capital as he can stock a farm at home. I have put the average price of good cleared farms in Ontario at £10 per acre, but any quantity of partially cleared land can be had from £2 to £8, according to the houses and the quantity cleared. The cost of going to Ontario is by Allan Line of Mail Steamers to Quebec and rail to Toronto—steerage, £7 10s.; intermediate, £9 10s., with 10 cubic feet for luggage free; saloon, from £14 10s. with 20 cubic feet free. The rates for household goods are 42s. 6d. per ton of 40 cubic feet. Travelling in Canada costs much the same as at home. Hotel bills are less. A day's bill at the best hotels averages 10s. to 12s. a day for four meals and a bed, and there is no tipping to do as at home. Board in hotels can be had by the week from \$7 up, and in private houses at any price you please. The farmers keep less stock than at home and grow more crop, and, as they make their own estate regulations, they can sell or grow what suits them best. There is cleared land to be got on lease. The only rent I heard of was 12s. an acre, and rented land seemed to be all the same price whether good or bad. Mr. Brown's taxes in Waterloo County (previously referred to), never exceeded \$33 for 160 acres. The climate is hotter in summer and colder in winter than here. I heard none complain of the frost, as it is steady with a pure atmosphere. I intended to have got the average rainfall, but omitted to do so, and also the variations of the thermometer for the various months. I can speak of the month I was there as being the most pleasant weather I ever saw. The people are exceedingly kind and hospitable; little drink is offered you, but plenty to eat, and generally fruit at every diet. The people live far better than here, food of all kinds being cheap. Regarding the export of cattle from Canada to this country in any quantity, I believe it has seen its greatest this year, for some time at least, an extra effort having been made to ship cattle owing to the Privy Council regulations anent the United States. Canada has, no doubt, got the food, but she has not got the cattle to send, i.e., in any very large quantities. In my opinion, Canada, at any rate Ontario, will have to breed and feed far more cattle than at present, if land is to remain near its present price. As it can never compete with the Western Canadian prairies in

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growing wheat, it must, of necessity, do as this country did after the repeal of the Corn Laws, grow and feed more beef. There is no doubt the opening up of so much prairie land has cheapened the price of land in Ontario twenty per cent., and I believe the same applies to all the Eastern States. It stands to reason that even good land that has grown wheat, in many cases too long, and costing on an average £10 an acre, cannot compete with better land costing only 8s. to 10s. per acre, with the first 160 for nothing. I have shown that wheat can be and is grown in Manitoba for 11s. to 12s. per quarter, and the cost of carriage to Ontario, when the Thunder Bay route is opened, is estimated at the outside at 8s.; so that the Manitoba farmer will be able, and very soon too, to deliver wheat or flour cheaper than the Ontario farmer will ever be able to grow it. Hence, I say Canada wants to import cattle in place of exporting, as there is no doubt she could feed millions more than at present.

With the United States there is a difference, as they have got the cattle, and Great Britain is their best market for good fat; in my opinion, their export of cattle is only begun. I have a strong conviction that in the near future a good many store cattle will be sent, and I am sure it would pay the farmers at home better to finish and them to breed them. At any rate they are alive to the fact that early matured beef is what is wanted here, and are taking nearly all Canada's supply, as well as their own, of shorthorn and Hereford bulls to improve their cattle; and when they come to realize the fact that store cattle are dearer by the 100 lbs. here than fat, I think they will try to send us some stores.

Canadian farmers do not seem to be so alive as their American cousins to the fact "that good pure bred sires must be used to produce early matured beef," at any rate they do not seem to practice it, as I found most of their pure bred Hereford and shorthorn bulls were this year being exported to the United States at nearly double the prices obtained last year at home, and I suppose their more wide-awake neighbours had also the advantage of paying an additional 20 per cent. by way of duty, in order to protect their manufactures, this being their stock argument against free trade with Great Britain, and, I suppose, the same applies to Canada.

II.—REGARDING MANITOBA.—Here also any one from this country will find a few of his countrymen, even Aberdonians. He will find a good difference from home, and must be prepared to rough it for a start. He will only find churches and schools near the towns at present. He will not find the many running burnies as at home. In short, he will have the carving out of his own fortune in a new land. The materials are there to his hand, and the Government present him on entry his choice of 160 acres of as good land as the world affords. A hard working man with a growing family might face and get over the difficulties of a pioneer's start, landing with five hundred pounds in his pocket, many have done it with nothing; with five hundred he would be soon independent. A man with means can buy as many sections as he pleases from one to five dollars an acre, and can invest his spare cash safely at from 10 to 12 per cent., at any rate, on a first mortgage over houses and lands taken at one-half their value; and I do not think a safer investment could be found than lending 2s. an acre on land, and that only when a man has settled upon it, built a house and broke up so much. I have good authority for stating that a farmer can easily afford to pay 12 per cent. interest for money rather than allow his land to be comparatively waste. That it is a country with a great future before it, I have no doubt, and I also believe it will be settled up with rapidity unknown even in the United States. That thirty thousand emigrants and their families went into it last year there is no doubt, and that possibly double that number will go in this year I believe there is less doubt.

That it is pretty hot in summer, with mosquitoes for a few weeks, there is no doubt; that it is pretty cold in winter, there is also no doubt. I can only speak of the thermometer at zero, which we had for a few days, and can say I did not feel nearly so cold as I have done since I came home with the thermometer at 26 degrees, the air was so pure and still and the sun so bright.

That there is want of running streams as compared with this moist country, there is no doubt. The first thing I missed in Canada and America was wimpling

burnies and birdies; and I must say I missed them to the end, although I travelled a good few thousand miles in the country. The first are wanting in most of it, *i.e.*, as many as at home; and the second, I was told, had gone south for the winter. I may say I saw no birds, unless a few loons here and there, until we came to the prairie chicken of Manitoba, who do not need to go south apparently.

Cattle and horses are kept out all winter, but would be much better housed for four or five months.

The price of cattle and horses are much the same as in Ontario; if any difference both are a little dearer. Saw only one lot of fat cattle, and Mr. Welsh ascertained they were sold at \$4.70 per 100 lbs., and were on their way to the western end of the Canadian Pacific Railway for the contractors there to feed their men. Their weight was 1,240 lbs., three and four years old. That this vast territory has food enough for millions of people and cattle there is no doubt, and from all appearances the people will soon be there, and it is hoped they will be able also in time to produce the cattle.

IN CONCLUSION.

I do not think I have much to add. To the labourer or farm servant who may think of going to Canada with little spare cash after his passage is paid, I will say, you will find plenty of employment in Ontario or the Eastern Provinces at about the same wages as at home, if employed by the year, and in Manitoba at a little more, with the prospect before you of free education for your children, and the probability of becoming, by industry and perseverance, your own proprietor even of a farm. As will be seen by the land regulations, the Government make you the offer of 160 acres of land free, only, I think, a man without some capital would be better at first to hire himself to others.

To the farmer with two to five hundred pounds in his pocket, who may think of going to Canada, I will say, you will find plenty of partially cleared farms for sale at all prices, and I would advise you to look well about you ere you buy, as you will be none the worse of even a year in the country working to others, and if willing to rough it a little for a time, by all means go to the North-West at once, and I am pretty sure you would soon find yourself not only your own laird, but independent.

To the farmer with capital, I would only say, if he be well at home and have no cause to change, he should remain; only if anxious to try to better his condition more quickly and independently than he is likely to do at home for some time to come in farming, he will find, either in Manitoba or Lower Canada, plenty of scope for his energies, and a good deal more interest for his money. He will find himself surrounded by his own countrymen, go where he will, all anxious for the prosperity of their adopted country, and all loyal sons of their Mother Country.

Rents in towns are a little higher than here, wages in towns also higher than here, food is cheaper all over, and all classes live better than at home.

That these, at present, great wheat-growing regions of the west and north west have already reduced the price of land both in Eastern Canada and the Eastern States, I think few will deny. That the day is not far distant when these same fertile and cheap lands will increase their supplies many thousand fold, I think fewer still will deny who have visited them, and I think I am safe in stating that there is little doubt these same lands, when facilities of transport are provided, will tend to reduce the price of land, not only in Great Britain, but all over Europe.

To all farmers who may either think of settling in Canada, or merely going over to have a look at it, I am sure all Canadians will join me in assuring them a hearty welcome, and I can assure them from personal experience, it will be a welcome they never dreamed of. There is plenty of room for all and to spare, and they invite all who have any hankering for land to come and they will satisfy them.

REPORT OF MR. JAMES BRUCE, DELEGATE FROM ABERDEENSHIRE

Mr. James Bruce, of Collithie, Gartly, Aberdeenshire, was one of the delegates appointed by the Aberdeenshire farmers. He made his report to a meeting of his constituents, held in the Long School, Aberdeen, on Friday, February 27th. Mr. Bruce, of Fornet, presided, and there was a large and approving audience. Mr. Bruce reported as follows:—

The sea is said to be a broad word, so is Canada; and it is only the lot of those persons who have travelled over a considerable portion of Canada who can form any idea of the vast extent of the British North American possessions.

Canada is said to have been discovered by John Cabot in 1497. The French took possession of the country in 1525, and founded the first settlement at Quebec in 1608. In 1759 the British forces, under the command of General Wolfe, captured Quebec, and in 1763 the whole territory of Canada was ceded to Great Britain by the Treaty of Paris of that year. By an Act which was passed in 1867 the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, or Upper and Lower Canada, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, were united under the title of the Dominion of Canada, provision being made at the time for the admission at any subsequent period of the other provinces and territories of British North America.

In 1870 the Province of Manitoba was admitted into the Union, and in the following year British Columbia and Vancouver's Island were also admitted, and in 1873 Prince Edward Island joined the Confederation.

The Dominion of Canada extends from the North Atlantic to the North Pacific Oceans, and has a breadth of more than 3,000 miles, and comprises all that portion of the Continent of America north of the United States boundary line, with the exception of Alaska, which belongs to the Union, and the Island of Newfoundland, which has not yet become a member of the Confederation.

The area of Canada, exclusive of its waters, is supposed to be about 3,333,701 square miles, and this great country lies between the 53rd and the 141st meridians west, and extends from the latitude of Rome, in Italy, to the Arctic Ocean.

Of this 3,333,701 square miles, 2,000,000 are agricultural or timber lands; and of this vast area the wheat zone exceeds one million square miles, or over 600,000,000 of acres.

Table showing the provinces and their area in square miles, and the population in 1871, the date of the last census:—

Provinces.	Area in square miles.	Population in 1871.
Ontario.....	107,760	1,620,851
Quebec	193,355	1,191,516
Nova Scotia	21,731	387,800
New Brunswick	27,322	245,594
Prince Edward's Island	2,173	94,021
Manitoba	14,340	12,228
North West Territories.....	2,750,000	.....
British Columbia.....	220,000	10,586
	3,338,701	3,602,596

Table showing the increase in the population of the Dominion from 1784 to 1871, the date of the last census :—

Years.	Ontario.	Quebec.	Nova Scotia	New Brunswick.	Prince Edward Island	Manitoba.	North-West Territories.	British Columbia.	Total population of settlement.
1784	10,000	113,012	30,000	.....	3,000	.....	.....	.....	166,256
1806	70,718	250,000	64,000	35,000	9,876	.....	.....	.....	455,899
1834	321,145	570,000	180,000	119,487	33,000	3,356	.....	.....	1,302,981
1844	556,662	697,084	225,000	160,000	54,000	5,143	.....	.....	1,802,889
1851	952,004	950,000	276,854	193,800	67,000	5,600	200	100	2,517,158
1861	1,396,091	1,111,566	330,857	252,047	80,000	8,688	1,400	6,000	3,324,292
1871	1,620,851	1,191,616	387,800	255,596	94,021	12,228	.....	10,566	3,602,596

It is probable by comparison with other countries that we may arrive at a conception of the great extent of the Dominion.

In the eastern side, we have Newfoundland, one of the oldest of England's Colonies, as large as Portugal, Nova Scotia as large as Servia, New Brunswick as large as Denmark and the Netherlands, Quebec as large as Spain and Belgium, Ontario three times as large as Portugal; and what shall we say of the Great North-West, including the Province of Manitoba, where there is room for a population of 50,000,000 souls! British Columbia is about twice as large as Ontario, and more than fifteen times as large as Manitoba.

The external aspects of the Dominion are of the most favourable character, being washed by the Atlantic, Pacific and Arctic Oceans. There is also an extensive inland lake and river system, navigable by heavy steamers and other ships.

The mighty St. Lawrence, which is famous for the purity and magnitude of its waters, drains an area of 330,000 square miles, is navigable a distance of 2,000 miles before gladly kissing the Atlantic Ocean.

Lake Superior, 600 feet above the sea, is 800 feet deep, and covers 31,500 square miles, is the largest fresh water sea in the world. Lake Michigan is 700 feet deep, and covers 22,000 square miles. Lake Huron, a similar depth, covers 21,000 square miles, and is said to contain 30,000 islands. Erie has an area of 9,000 square miles, is 200 feet deep, and in its descent at the falls pours 700,000 tons of water every minute. Ontario has an area of 6,400 square miles, is 600 feet deep, and 235 feet above the sea.

The total area of these five inland seas is 89,900 square miles, and these vast bodies of water have a great and beneficial effect in tempering the heat of summer and the cold of winter, and thereby adding greatly to the salubrity of the climate, the cool and humid breezes modify the heat of summer, and the larger lakes, which do not freeze, softens the severity of the winter.

Surely in such a country there is a goodly heritage, and while it can boast with just pride and progress in all the manufacturing arts and industries, the fact must never be lost sight of that nature has designated the Dominion of Canada as the grand agricultural garden of the world. This is a subject which ought to command particular attention at the present time, when the tendency of such vast numbers of our population is so strong in the direction of pursuits which are inconsistent with the agricultural development of the country. History teems with lessons to convince us that the prosperity of every nation has kept pace with the development and enlargement of its agricultural pursuits. From time immemorial the foundation of all prosperity, in ruder or more enlightened shape, has been agriculture—the tilling of the soil. Both civilization and society rest thereon, and it is the begotter of permanent wealth. All prosperous new countries find their mainstay in agriculture, and depend thereon. The world must retain a community of farmers, no matter under what title or design they may conduct their operations;

1784 to 1871,

Columbia.	Total population of settlement's.
.....	166,266
.....	455,899
.....	1,302,991
.....	1,802,889
100	2,517,158
000	3,323,292
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and in no part of the world can the operations of the farmer be conducted with more pleasure and security from loss than in the Dominion, which has been made by poor men. Poor men have made Canada, and she, gratefully in return for their labours, has made them. Men who went to the country a few years ago without a dollar in their pockets, but with a determination to succeed worthy of imitation, went to the bush with axe in hand, chopped down a few trees sufficient to build a log-house, and then commenced the clearing of their 100-acre farm.

THE CONSTITUTION OF CANADA AND ADMINISTRATION OF GOVERNMENT.

The Executive Government and authority is vested in the Queen, and exercised in her name by the Governor-General aided by a Privy Council. The legislative power is a Parliament, consisting of the Upper House, styled the Senate, and the House of Commons. The Senate consists of 78 members, appointed for life by the Governor in Council. The House of Commons consists of 206 members, elected for five years. Each province has also a separate Legislature and Administration, with a Lieutenant-Governor, appointed by the Governor-General, at the head of the Executive. There is also a County Council which manages the affairs of the county, whilst another Board is the Township Council to look after the affairs of the township.

There appears in all these things too much government, which is surely unnecessary and certainly expensive. The day will surely come when the Township Council will be dispensed with, when the powers of the County Council will be increased, and when the Local Parliament will no longer be a necessity, and therefore abolished.

In conclusion, I may say to those persons who intend to emigrate from their native land, the claims of Canada are in many ways great. In the Dominion is found "the nearest of all the British Colonies, within only a few days' sailing from Liverpool, which has access to all the advantages that civilization can boast of. The people are kind and hospitable, in short, kinder people are not on the face of the earth, and the hospitality which is extended to the visitor, even though a perfect stranger, is worthy of remark. They are a people peaceable and law abiding, and as much security for life and property exists as at home. They are social and intellectual, and always ready to impart information upon any subject. By emigrating to Canada the emigrant helps to build up the Empire of which he is at present a member, and which is the glory of the world. He goes to a country where he will find a people the same as at home, with no Lynch law, and no law of naturalization comes in the way of his right to become a citizen, as in the United States. By going to Canada he does not "absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiance and fidelity" to Great Britain and Ireland, the land which gave him birth, the Mother Country, which is the pride and admiration of the whole world.

To the farmer in quest of a farm to better his position, he will find in the older provinces plenty of desirable farms, with comfortable houses and commodious barns, and if the farm is once paid for he owns a home from which he cannot be evicted, and where he will get full benefit of such things as permanent improvements and unexhausted manures. The capital which is required to stock a farm in this country is sufficient to pay for the farm and stocking in addition. From balance-sheets which have been drawn up by farmers, a profit of at least six per cent. is made on the outlay over the living on the farm. When farms are rented a larger profit is made, as the owner seldom receives more than five per cent. for his investment.

I have now given a fair representation of what I have found Canada to be. I have also indicated what a farmer's prospects are by giving the price of farms, the average returns of produce in various parts of the country, and the expenses connected with the production of the crops.

By a few newspapers and unscrupulous agents of some of the American Railway Land Companies, having other interests to serve, it has been stated that the delegates were sent to the best parts of Canada. I now wish to contradict this state-

ment, as perfect liberty was enjoyed by every delegate to go where he pleased. As regards myself, I had full liberty to go anywhere and examine whatever I wished; and my movements were not directed in any way by the representatives of the Government.

EDUCATION.

The system of education is good, and second to none in the world. In the Province of Ontario the townships are divided into school sections, suitable for one school, and in these sections three trustees are elected to manage the affairs of the school for three years. It is the duty of the County Council to raise an equivalent amount to that apportioned by the Minister of Education for the payment of teachers' salaries, &c. Therefore all public schools are free; no such thing as school fees being known, and no family can be much beyond two miles from school. This great privilege is something worth considering to those persons who think of leaving their native country to settle in another, as the value of education is only properly known and appreciated when wanting. There are 224 urban school boards, and 4,751 rural school sections in the province, which contain a population of about two millions. There are 4,990 public schools, employing about 6,500 teachers. The school population numbers 432,360, and no less than 489,015 are in attendance, which certainly is a remarkable exhibit; the expenditure for the last fiscal year, 1878, being 2,889,247 dollars. The Roman Catholics have also in the province 177 separate schools, and 25,280 pupils are in attendance. Those pupils who want a higher and better education than can be obtained at a public school, find in various parts of the country high or grammar schools managed in a similar manner by a Board of Trustees. In the province there are 104 high schools and 19,574 students; the expenditure connected with these schools amounted to 396,010 dollars. It is at these institutions where the students receive that classical education and that training which is necessary before entering the study of the medical or other professions. For the study of the various professions there are colleges at Montreal, Toronto and various other places.

In order to show the growth of the educational system during the last thirty-five years, the following figures will be of interest:—In 1842 the public schools numbered only 1,721; in 1851 they had increased to 3,001; and in 1878 to 4,990. The number of pupils in 1851 was 168,159, and in 1878 the number had increased to 489,015. The amount paid for the support of schools in 1851 was 468,644 dollars, and in 1878 it had increased to 2,889,247 dollars.

The above figures are taken from the Report on Education for the Province of Ontario for the last fiscal year. The system is similar in the other provinces, although probably not so far advanced, on account of Ontario being better cleared and opened up, and consequently more thickly peopled.

CLIMATE AND SEASONS.

From the information to be obtained regarding the temperature of the summer season, I find it considerably warmer than the south of England; and as I spent most of my time in the three Provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Nova Scotia, I now confine my remarks to these three provinces.

As no better idea can be given of the temperature which prevails in any country than by the products grown in that country, a list of them now follows. The cereals grown are barley, oats, wheat, buckwheat, rye and maize, the latter being only ripened extensively in the Western Peninsula, requiring a warm summer temperature. It may be said all kinds of fruits and vegetables can be grown. In Ontario the list of fruits is composed of apples, pears, peaches, plums, grapes, melons, nectarines and apricots. The vegetable list contains turnips, carrots, cabbages, tomatoes, squashes and pumpkins; hemp, tobacco and sugarbeet are also abundant crops. The growth of such products as these form an unerring index to the character of the summer climate.

I will now say something of the winter season as I experienced it up to the 21st January; and regarding it I find the greatest misapprehension prevails on this side respecting its severity. However much snow and frost are objectionable in some countries, they are certainly no drawback to Canada, but necessary, as the snow affords protection to the fall wheat, and the frost assists greatly to pulverize the soil. The decided character of the winter makes it more pleasant and enjoyable; and, besides being pleasant, there is no healthier climate under the sun. Although the thermometer sometimes registers a low temperature, and the weather cold, still, owing to the dry atmosphere, it is bracing and pleasant.

Along the northern shores of Lake Erie it is seldom the snow is of any considerable depth, although farther north in the province snow sometimes covers the ground to the depth of two feet. With this covering of snow Canadians have the finest roads in the world, and without this snow the primeval forest could never have been cleared of its heavy timber but by burning.

With the least coating of snow wheeled vehicles give place to bob and other sleighs, or, in other words, wheels give place to runners.

With these bob-sleighs a load of from 60 to 70 bushels of wheat can be drawn to market or railway depôt.

Sleighting is the most comfortable and pleasant mode of travelling one could wish; and when the traveller finds himself seated in a good sleigh, with a supply of buffalo or other robes, every degree of comfort is secured, and, though the weather be cold, the cold is not felt in the slightest degree.

The work of the farmer in winter consists of clearing the primeval forest, chopping and splitting cord-wood, which is drawn to town and sold as firewood. A cord of wood consists of split timber, and is eight feet long, four feet wide, and four feet deep, and realizes in the market from \$2½ to \$4 a cord, depending, of course, upon the supply of timber in the neighbourhood.

It is also during the winter season that the farmer generally markets a considerable proportion of his crop, and he always waits for good sleighing before he attempts to draw his grain to market.

There are several remarkable phenomena in the climate of Western Canada which has not as yet been accounted for. One of these is termed "The Indian Summer," which commences and terminates in the month of November, the weather being delightfully mild, accompanied with a hazy atmosphere. It is during the Indian Summer that the feathered tribes leave their northern clime, and prosecute their journey to a more southern region.

Another very extraordinary meteorological phenomenon is, that the greatest intensity of frost is always *remittent* at the end of the third day, when several days of mild weather follow; thus, the severity of winter is never felt more than two or three days at a time.

PROSPECTS FOR SETTLERS.

This leads me to remark that large quantities of land are being given by the Government free to settlers. In the Province of Ontario there is still a considerable extent under bush in the Muskoka district. In Manitoba and the North-West the extent of prairie land is almost boundless. The best thing for emigrants to do, especially for those who have no money and no definite trade to pursue, is to find work as quickly as possible. Work can always be found from the month of May till the end of October, and at the following rate of wages:—When a ploughman has got into the ways of the country he will receive from £20 to nearly £30 a year, along with board, and if engaged by the day during the busy season, which is haying and harvest time, the current rate is one dollar, or 4s. 2d., a day for the former, and from 4s. to 6s. a day, which is from daylight till dark, during the latter season.

After working a good few years the careful and industrious settler will have as much money saved as would be sufficient to keep him for three years, which would be required to chop and burn the wood on a few acres of his free grant farm. It

only requires the work of an expert chopper for a few years in the bush to make himself a comfortable home—a home, in fact, from which no lordling can evict the occupant, and where none of those feudal laws exist which retard the progress and development of agriculture. It is needless for the emigrant to think that gold can be found for the gathering up, like pebbles on the sea shore. He must be sober, persevering and industrious, and with a determination to succeed. What has been done before in the bush can be done again.

The expense of clearing the bush, as far as chopping, drawing and burning are concerned, is estimated at £3 an acre. If the settler has over £50 in his pocket, and prepared to battle and overcome the difficulties of the pioneer's life, he will soon be richly rewarded, for it may confidently be said that the industrious and persevering man of sober and frugal habits has every chance of success.

The settler who goes to the country with a few hundreds of pounds, or sufficient means to purchase a farm, will find the better way at first is to invest his money for one year or more on first mortgage, which will yield eight or ten per cent., or it can be deposited in the bank on deposit receipt, where it will earn five per cent.

FARMING AND PURCHASE OF THE FARM.

To purchase a farm on arrival in the country is certainly a very unwise proceeding. The manners and customs of the people are different, so is the mode of cultivating the farm. The safe and proper course is to live some time in the country to gain experience, which will afterwards be found profitable and of immense value. Even after the settler has come to understand the country and the mode of tilling the farm, he will find renting a farm a safer and wiser course, at all events for a time, than to purchase. A good farm can be rented, according to the quality of the soil, character of the buildings, and proximity to a city or railway depôt, at from 12s. to 20s. an acre; at this latter price a farm can be got near a large city and all the produce sold in the city.

The following is an estimate prepared by Mr. Laidlaw, and other practical and experienced farmers in the neighbourhood of Guelph. It represents the purchase price of a 200-acre farm, and the working of it all throughout. This estimate is for a good farm in a good county, and everything taken at hired prices, and for an average of the past five bad years; and by it any practical farmer will have a good idea of what can be done at farming in Ontario, and of the value of all kinds of stock, &c. The dwelling-house on this farm is stone, of one and a-half stories in height, and has a kitchen and all the necessary out-buildings. The farms and stables are good and commodious, with large root cellars underneath. There is a large orchard, and the farm is well fenced, and has a supply of good water.

Purchase price of 200 acres at £14 an acre.....	£2,800	0	0
6 horses at £20 each.....	£120	0	0
6 cows at £10 each.....	60	0	0
6 calves at 36s.....	10	16	0
6 yearlings at £3 12s.....	21	12	0
6 two-year-olds at £6.....	36	0	0
6 steers bought to feed at £6.....	36	0	0
20 breeding ewes at 24s.....	24	0	0
25 lambs at 12s.....	15	0	0
1 ram.....	3	0	0
1 breeding sow and litter.....	5	0	0
Implements.....	160	0	0
Seed grain and other seeds.....	20	0	0
		511	8 0
Capital Invested.....	£3,311	8	0

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LABOUR.

Two men one year at £45.....	£90	0	0
One man nine months.....	32	0	0
Extra help.....	10	0	0
Servant girl.....	20	0	0
Blacksmith and carpenters' accounts	8	0	0
Tear and wear of implements.....	8	0	0
Threshing machine four days.....	5	12	0
Taxes.....	12	0	0
	<hr/> £185 12 0		

YIELD.

25 acres wheat, 20 bushels per acre			
20 " oats 45 " "			
15 " barley 30 " "			
15 " pease 25 " "			
9 " turnips.			
1 " potatoes, 125 bushels.			
35 " hay at 1½ tons.			
5 " rape.			
45 " pasture.			
15 " fallow.			
15 " woodland.			
<hr/> 200			

SALES OF CROP AND STOCK.

500 bushels wheat at 4s. 2d.....	£104	3	4
450 " barley at 2s. 8½d.....	58	10	0
125 " potatoes at 2s. 1d.....	13	0	5
Return from cows.....	50	0	0
6 two-year-old fat cattle at £14.....	84	0	0
6 two-year-old cattle bought to feed, profit thereon	48	0	0
8 fat hogs at 60s.....	24	0	0
25 lambs at 24s.....	30	0	0
21 fleeces, 5 lbs. each, at 1s. 3d. per lb....	6	6	0
Produce of orchard.....	20	0	0

Total Income.....	£437	19	9
Total Expenditure.....	185	12	0

Leaving a profit of.....	£252	7	9
or interest on £3,311 8s. at the rate of £7 12s. 5d. per cent.			

If this farm was rented, and the owner receiving six per cent. on his capital of £2,800 sterling, or a rent of £168, there would be a balance of £184 7s. 9d. left as profit on the capital invested in carrying on the farm. The capital necessary for a good farm in Ontario is about 60s. an acre.

SIZE OF THE FARM AND BUILDINGS.

The farms are generally of 100 acres in extent, although the more industrious and enterprising farmers frequently own 300 acres and upwards, which, in many cases, is well cleared, and a considerable extent under cultivation. The farm-houses may be said to be of three classes: the first house, in every case, is the shanty, which

is built of axe-squared logs, laid upon each other, and plastered between with clay, to make the building comfortable. The roof is of boards, which is often covered with shingles, which are made from cedar or pine; these shingles are about the same size as the slate in this country, and laid on in a similar manner; the second or next style is the frame house, which is of larger proportions than the shanty, and, in every case, is very comfortable and convenient. As wealth increases, these frame houses, in their turn, give place to brick buildings of more elegant construction, giving more and better accommodation to the inmates. There are various modes of heating the farm-houses; the general way being with the cord-wood stove, although a considerable number of the more advanced and wealthy farmers use the self-feeding coal-stove. In this stove is burned the hard or anthracite coal; it is self-feeding and only requires to be filled twice during the twenty-four hours. From this stove, which is generally placed in the hall, tin pipes are conducted through the different lobbies of the house and the various rooms, which makes the whole house quite comfortable, and, in many cases, altogether uncomfortable, being by far too hot. To the casual observer, journeying through the provinces, a strange feature presents itself in the style of the farm buildings, which, in every case, are built of wood. These houses, or barns and stables as they are called, although built of wood, will last for fifty years; this durability arises from the fact that the climate is better than here, and the atmosphere drier. Although to the traveller there is little accommodation to be seen about these barns and stables, still, upon a more minute inspection, they are found to contain good accommodation for the stock, and ample room for the hay and grain crops, along with sufficient cellar accommodation for the root crops, where grown.

The traveller also observes in several sections of the country the absence of running streams, which leads him to think that water must be scarce, but upon enquiry it is found that a good supply of water is generally obtained by sinking pumps and deep wells. Although running streams are few, still there is no scarcity of rivers, as the country is drained by a number of goodly rivers, which are utilized in the propulsion of various kinds of mills and manufactories.

FENCES.

The general style of fence is the snake fence, made of rails 12 feet long, placed the one above the other and zig-zag, at an angle sufficient to keep them from falling; three rails called stake and riders are placed in the angle to keep the fence from breaking up. The snake fence rails are generally made of cedar trees, where such can be obtained, as they are almost everlasting. Where cedars cannot be got, black ash and elm have to be resorted to. Cedar rails can be purchased where plentiful at about £2 2s. per 1,000, 12 feet long; and, where scarce, the expense would be about five times that amount. Eight rails are required to the line, inclusive of the stakes to prevent the fence from falling. In some places where wood is not plentiful, the board fence is adopted, which looks much better than the snake fence, being perfectly straight and made of five sawn boards, and very much resembling our rail fence. Another style of fence is made of galvanized iron wire, two wires being twisted together with a piece of smaller wire, entwined at given distances, which project about half an inch. This fence appears dangerous, as, if any animal runs against it, it must, in a good many cases, get torn and cut with the projecting wires. Another style is the root fence, which is probably the most substantial of the whole, and certainly the least expensive. This fence is made in the same way as the root fence in this country, the roots being simply drawn into lines and placed in order. No such thing as thorn hedges are to be seen, but rather nice hedge, which grows very rapidly, is got by planting sets of the Osage orange thickly. This hedge is of rather a prickly nature, and seems to make a substantial and attractive fence, and well suited for the country.

HORSES.

The draught horses used throughout are of a lighter build than we are accustomed to see on farms in this country. They very much resemble our coach horses, are very

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active, and would do a good deal more trace work than horses of the Clydesdale breed. Most farmers think it would be an advantage to have a heavier class of horses, if activity could be retained by crossing with the Clydesdale. Roadsters are very active and durable; they will do a good deal more work than running horses in this country and they possess that valuable quality of being remarkably sure-footed; they are, on the whole, very well adapted to the country. The prices of farm horses vary from £20 to £30 each, and good roadsters cost from £15 to £20 each.

CATTLE.

The various breeds of cattle are fairly good, and very much better than the visitor is prepared to expect. The native breed is no doubt coarse, being too high on the shoulders and too weak on the loins; the head is well set on and generally well protected with a pair of tremendous horns, the bone is by far too heavy, and all over they show a want of breeding.

If a district is taken in the Province of Ontario around such places as Brantford, Guelph, Hamilton, Toronto, Whitby and Woodstock, where a good many of the farmers have already become alive to the fact that to compete favourably with the Home farmers in the English market a better breed of cattle must be maintained, and in order to improve the breed, work has already been commenced by the use of better sires of the shorthorn, Hereford and Galloway breed. Around the above-mentioned towns a lot of feeding cattle are to be found, which would be very creditable in many of the home markets. A good many enquiries are being made regarding the polled Aberdeens. Being without horns they are considered to be a breed which would suit admirably for shipping purposes, and would fatten more rapidly than their rivals—the Galloways.

As it is a most important factor in the agriculture of this country to know at what rate good beef can be produced in Canada, I will now give the system of feeding, the price of the beef, and a few figures to show the cost of transmission to England.

The young cattle generally run in the bush during the summer season, during the winter season they are fed upon straw or hay, and in some cases Indian corn stalks. When tied up to fatten they receive a few roots in addition, generally about 60 lbs. per beast. An allowance is also given of mixed grains, and an addition of some bran, along with water, which upon a few farms flows continually before them. In the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, in the Eastern Townships, beef for shipping can be produced at 5 cents per lb. live weight. In Nova Scotia the cost of production should be less, being quite close to the seaport of Halifax, and in the country where good hay is so abundant and cheap.

The following figures will show the price at which beef can be delivered in Liverpool:—

Bullock, 1,500 lbs., at 5 cents, all live weight.....	£15	12	6
Railway charges to shipping port.....	1	0	0
Present ocean freight.....	4	10	0
Keep and attendance on voyage.....	0	10	0
Insurance.....	0	10	0
Expenses after arrival	0	10	0

£22 12 6

This bullock of 1,500 lbs. live weight will dress at least 56 per cent., which is 840 lbs. These figures, therefore, show that beef can be brought to Liverpool from Canada at from 6½d. to 6¾d. per lb., or, in other words, about £3 per cwt.

THE CROPS OF THE COUNTRY.

The general crop of the country is wheat of different varieties. Fall wheat has been a better crop during the last few years than spring wheat, generally yielding

about one-quarter more per acre, and always in the market realizing a higher price. This year fall wheat looks remarkably well all over, so well, in fact, that in the neighbourhood of London, Canada West, I saw thousands of sheep feeding on the wheat fields; and in the County of Kent, a field of wheat which was sown on the 9th of September had attained the enormous height of 22 inches on the 11th October. This being a very critical stage for this field, it was mown down and pastured with cattle to save it from destruction. This is not the only wheat field which was mown this fall; and from this rapid growth it may be shown that a mild winter is not conducive to the interests of the Canadian farmer, but rather very much against their prosperity. The quantity of seed required is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels when drilled, and two bushels of spring wheat also drilled. Fall wheat is generally manured with the farm-yard manure, and sowing commences about the 10th September and reaping time about the 16th July. Results may be stated to vary from 20 to 35 bushels per acre, according to the season and the general management of the farm and crop. It does not pay the farmer to grow a less quantity than 20 bushels, and he cannot afford to sell this quantity under one dollar or four shillings and twopence a bushel to have a sufficient profit.

Barley is generally grown on the lighter class of soils, and as a rule does not get farm-yard manure. The quantity of seed used varies from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ bushels per acre, drilled, and the return may be placed at 40 bushels per acre.

Oats are not much grown for sale, as probably they are the least remunerative of any cereal. The season, being so short, brings them to maturity too quickly, consequently they are of light weight, often not more than 34 lbs. per bushel. Quantity of seed required $2\frac{1}{2}$ bushels where drilled, and the average return may be stated at 50 bushels per acre.

Peas—Regarding this crop the same quantity of seed is used as of oats, and the return is about 35 bushels.

Farmers generally calculate upon being able to sell the coarse grains, that is wheat, barley, oats and peas at about a cent a lb.

Hay—The quantity of hay grown varies from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 tons per acre, and the second year's cutting is generally the best.

Potatoes, near the large cities, are grown in large quantities. They are a very remunerative crop; from 200 to 300 bushels can be raised per acre, and they often realize 2s. a bushel, and sometimes more. Good potatoes are being shipped to the United States in increasing quantities yearly, bringing lots of money to the Canadian farmers.

Turnips and mangolds are not so much grown as they will be bye and bye, as when farmers go more largely in for live stock, a greater breadth of roots must be raised. 700 bushels of turnips, and probably 1,000 of mangolds, can be grown per acre, and all this without the aid of artificial manure.

I will now go briefly over the Province of Ontario, speak of the principal counties and their chief town, and give the price of good farms in the several counties.

Ottawa is the Capital of the Dominion, and is situated on the banks of the River Ottawa, in the Province of Ontario. It is the Seat of the Government, and contains the extensive Parliamentary Buildings, which were erected only a few years ago. These buildings are an ornament and a credit, not only to the city, but the Dominion of Canada. Ottawa is a city well built of stone, and contains a population of 22,000 inhabitants. The principal industry of Ottawa is lumbering, there being in the neighbourhood numbers of very large and extensive saw mills and timber yards. The wood is grown in the interior of the country, and floated down the river, and as there are various falls, full advantage of them is taken in propelling various kinds of machinery.

Toronto, formerly called Little York, is the largest city in Ontario, it is the Capital of the County of York, the Queen City of the West, and the seat of the Provincial Parliament. The heads of all the different educational institutions and colleges for all the various professions are to be found here. Toronto is a model city, having very wide streets laid off at right angles, containing a number of splendid blocks of buildings,

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and is on the whole well built. In the suburbs of the city there is a class of superior residences for the merchant princes and private gentlemen. Although this is the largest city in the province, still it is not, on the whole, so great a manufacturing centre as it might well be. The great distillery of Messrs. Godberham & Worts, which is the largest not only in Canada, but the largest in the world, gives employment to a considerable number of workmen. At this distillery there are 2,619 head of cattle being prepared for the London market, and fed on the slops of the distillery and hay. The eminent firm of Messrs. Jacques & Hay, whose furniture is famed all over the world, have their large manufactory here; they also give employment to a considerable number of workmen. In 1793, when Mr. Bouchette visited this spot, he found dense forests, and a solitary wigwam. In 1794 the first rudiments of a British settlement were formed. The population of Toronto in 1831 was 2,700, and now it is supposed to contain about 80,000 inhabitants.

There are good farms in the County of York, which, in the neighbourhood of Toronto, sell from £14 to £18 an acre when the buildings are good. In the interior of the county the prices might range from £10 to £14. Farms are too dear at anything approaching £18, as it takes too long to realize it, unless it be in the vicinity of the city, when the crops can all be marketed at the highest current price.

Hamilton, or the ambitious city, was first visited by the "whiteman" in the year 1779. In 1830 it contained a population of only 653, and now the number of inhabitants is supposed to be 36,000. Hamiltonians claim for their city as being the Birmingham of Canada; be that as it may, a considerable amount of manufacturing is done here, probably more than in any other city of a similar population. It contains rolling mills, metal pipe and nail manufactories, and various foundries for the manufacture of stoves, &c. In Hamilton the Wanzer sewing machines are turned out at the rate of 100 per day, and exported to all parts of the world. Hamilton is the Capital of the County of Wentworth, and possesses good county buildings, which were erected a few years ago at an expense of £30,000. On its streets, which are wide, are to be found good stores and first-rate banking and other offices; and in the neighbourhood are to be seen numbers of villas, where the more successful merchants and others reside.

Land in the County of Wentworth varies greatly, and farms cost from £8 to £12 an acre, depending greatly upon the quality of the soil and buildings, also the proximity to a railway station.

Guelph, in the County of Wellington, was probably visited by the first white man in the person of John Gault, the novelist, whose monument stands in Greenock, Scotland. John Gault, at any rate, cut the first tree where Guelph now stands, on the 23rd April, 1827; the primeval forest he turned into a fruitful field, and since those days it has become an important commercial and manufacturing city, having a population of 10,000 inhabitants. Wellington is one of the best counties in Ontario, being very well watered and well cultivated; the lands are rolling and generally good. Farms sell from £10 to £12 an acre. In the neighbourhood of Guelph are to be found breeders of the shorthorn, Hereford and Galloway cattle. Mr. Stone owns large flocks of both the shorthorn and Hereford, and Mr. McCrea is an enthusiastic breeder of the Galloways. There is a class of cattle throughout this county which would surprise even the most fastidious, and at the late Christmas market the cattle exhibited would compare favourably with that seen at many of the home markets.

The Model Farm, Guelph, or Agricultural College, is distant about one and a-half miles from the Town of Guelph. This farm is supported by the Province of Ontario and is an institution calculated to do a great amount of good to the young farmers studying there. The college buildings are of stone, and provide ample accommodation to the ninety-one students studying there, but this accommodation is by far too limited, as last year the applications for admission were considerably over two hundred.

The principles and practice of agriculture are taught by Professor Brown, who was at one time a factor in the County of Aberdeen. There are also competent pro-

fessors who give the students lectures in English, mathematics and veterinary science. The students are in the lecture room five hours a day, and they work on the farm other five hours. By the system which is adopted the students are charged board and washing at cost, and as a set-off they receive so much an hour for their work on the farm, which, practically, means free tuition to a fair worker. If the young Canadian farmers do not receive the most advanced education and the best training for their adopted business, the blame must rest at their own door.

In the cultivation of the farm the system adopted is what is called the "seventh shift"—the first crop being pease, the second, wheat; the third, green crop, such as turnips, mangolds, potatoes and Indian corn; then barley or oats, followed by three years' grass, the first two being always cut for hay. All the various breeds of cattle are kept, and the stock includes the shorthorn, Ayrshire, Hereford, Devon, Polled Aberdeen and Galloway. From the appearance which the Herefords present at this farm and other places, they seem to be very well adapted to the country. The breeds of sheep include the Leicester, South Down, Shropshire and Cotswold. The Shropshires here look the best of all the breeds. A good many of the best specimens of the various breeds of cattle and sheep have been imported from Britain. The extent of the farm is 550 acres, 400 of which are clear and under cultivation. The most of the land is a clayey loam, resting on a gravelly subsoil. The fields are fenced with straight fences of boards and wire, which, on the whole, makes the farm very much resemble an English homestead. As the students have to assist in the practical work of the farm, the fields are, as would be expected, very clean and free from weeds. The farm in every way shows good and careful management, and reflects great credit on Professor Brown, in whose hands the management lies. This season all the crops were good, and the turnips of excellent quality, testing over twenty tons an acre. Experiments have been carried on with cattle feeding, the animals have been selected from the different herds and placed alongside each other. In fattening it has been found advisable to reduce the allowance of roots considerably, and in no case does the quantity now given exceed 30 to 40 lbs. per beast per day. The quantity of grain allowed depends on circumstances, and may be stated at from 6 to 8 lbs. per day; the estimated increase in weight is 2 lbs. per day. The various herds of sheep are fed on peas, straw and hay, with a little grain, and from the general appearance of the different breeds, the Shropshire carry the palm, and appear to be the breed best suited to the country. The large piggery is filled with splendid specimens of the famous Berkshire breed, and from experiments made in the feeding of pigs, it has been clearly proved that the most progress in fattening has been made on white peas when supplied whole. Several of the horses used are very nearly pure Clydesdale, and are superior to the horses to be found on farms in the district.

London was only surveyed in 1826; it is now the Capital of the County of Middlesex, and has a population of 21,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the banks of the River Thames, and has got its bridges—Blackfriars, Westminster, and others common to the City of London. A Kensington and Covent Garden, and every other familiar name to be found in the great metropolis, is also to be found in Canada West. It has got a weekly market to which the farmers bring the produce of the farm, the orchard and the garden. The following is a list of market prices on the 10th December :—

GRAIN.

Wheat, Winter, per 100 lbs.	\$2 16 to \$2 19
" Spring	1 55 to 1 90
Corn.....	0 90 to 1 10
Oats	1 00 to 1 02
Buckwheat	0 85 to 0 95
Rye	0 80 to 0 90
Peas.....	0 90 to 1 60
Barley	0 95 to 1 28

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PRODUCE.

Eggs, per dozen	0 18 to	0 22
Butter, crock	0 18 to	0 18
" rolls	0 20 to	0 25
" firkins	0 14 to	0 18
Cheese, per lb.....	0 11 to	0 12

FLOUR AND FEED.

Fall Flour, per cwt.....	3 50 to	3 75
Mixed Flour "	3 25 to	3 50
Spring Flour "	3 25 to	3 50
Oatmeal, fine "	2 50 to	3 00
" Granulated "	3 00 to	3 50
Graham Flour "	3 25 to	3 50
Cornmeal "	1 75 to	2 00
Shorts, per ton.	10 60 to	18 00
Bran "	10 00 to	12 00

SKINS AND HIDES.

Sheepskins, each.....	0 60 to	1 00
Lambskins "	0 60 to	1 00
Calfskins, green, No. 1, per lb.....	0 10 to	0 00
" No. 2.....	0 08 to	0 00
" Dry	0 15 to	0 16
Hides, No. 1, per lb.....	0 09½ to	0 00
" No. 2, "	0 08½ to	0 00

MISCELLANEOUS.

Potatoes, per bag... ..	0 55 to	0 65
Onions "	0 80 to	1 00
Apples "	0 50 to	0 65
Tallow, rendered.....	0 05 to	0 06
Beef, per lb., by the quarter.....	0 03½ to	0 05
Lamb " "	0 07 to	0 08
Pork	0 06 to	0 07
Turkeys, each.....	0 60 to	1 00
Geese, each.....	0 35 to	0 50
Ducks, per pair	0 50 to	0 65
Chickens, per pair.....	0 40 to	0 50
Live hogs, per 100 lbs	4 00 to	4 50
Dressed hogs, per 100 lbs.....	5 00 to	6 00
Hay, per ton.....	9 00 to	10 00
Cordwood, No. 1, dry, per cord.....	4 00 to	4 25
Coal, all stove kinds	6 40 to	6 60
Parsnips, per bushel.....	0 50 to	0 60
Turnips "	0 23 to	0 25

London has been the first city in Canada to adopt the principle of heating by steam. The steam is generated in large boilers, and conveyed over the city in large pipes encased in some non-conducting material. The pipes are introduced into the houses in a similar manner to the gas pipes, and the amount of heat is regulated by the quantity of steam allowed to pass through the various pipes in the house.

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The famous brewery of Messrs. Carling & Co. is here, and this firm has been the first to commence the brewing of the celebrated German beverage, the much-prized lager beer, which is so refreshing and has become so common during the summer season. Some of the largest oil refineries in the world are here, the crude being got from Petrolia, distant about 50 miles. At Petrolia and Bothwell there are thousands of pumps to be seen, all driven by steam power, pumping the crude from wells which, on an average, are about 480 feet deep.

Farms near London sell at about £16 an acre, and throughout the country, which very much resembles Wellington, at from £10 to £12 an acre.

Brantford is the Capital of the County of Brant, which very much resembles the neighbouring County of Oxford. This thriving city has a population of 10,000 inhabitants, is generally well built, and contains a good many manufactories, which give employment to the labouring classes.

The lands in this county are generally good, undulating and well-watered, with very little bush—in fact, no more than is necessary for the supply of cordwood, and the other timber which is required on the farm. From Brantford, a drive of four miles takes the visitor to the world-renowned farm of "Bow Park," which was until a few years ago owned by the Hon. George Brown, the successful newspaper man, and the proprietor of the *Toronto Globe* newspaper. This farm is now owned by the "Canada West Farm Stock Association," which is a joint-stock concern, having the half of its capital owned on this side and the other side of the Atlantic. Bow Park is under the management of Mr. John Clay, Kerchester, near Kelso; the extent is 900 acres, of which 780 are under the highest state of cultivation, the remaining 120 acres being under forest trees and belts of wood for ornament and shelter. This fine farm is pleasantly situated on the left bank of the Grand River, and is almost surrounded by its waters. The soil is an alluvial deposit, resting on a clay subsoil; and from the high state of cultivation of the farm, as well as the liberal system of feeding the stock, making the manure so rich, the farm is, consequently, of the most fertile nature.

As the farm is intended to support a large and valuable herd of short-horn cattle and a flock of good sheep, it is necessary to have buildings of a very extensive and commodious nature. These buildings, for completeness, convenience and comfort, were probably unsurpassed, but at the time of my visit I saw them, not in their glory, not even in ruins, but in ashes. I visited Bow Park a few days after that terrible conflagration which laid the whole place waste, with the exception of three large cattle stables or byres. Steps were early taken to have the buildings restored, and everything again put in proper order for the management of the herd, the flock and the stud. As it may be of particular interest to know the system of management pursued on this large farm, a brief and minute description is here given. No particular rotation of cropping is observed, but a considerable extent is generally under rye, sown in the fall and cut green for summer feeding which, as a regular thing, commences about the first week in May, and by varying the times of sowing, the cuttings may be extended until the second week of June. The weight of this green crop varies from 15 to 25 tons an acre, depending, of course, greatly on the season and the condition of the soil. A mixture of oats, pease and tares makes the second soiling crop, and of this mixture from 40 to 50 acres are grown, the first cutting being always ready in time to succeed the green rye. The third soiling crop is Indian corn, of which about 100 acres are commenced to be planted about the 20th of May. This green corn makes a valuable feed for the months of August and September, or if dried and stooked it makes valuable fodder for the winter season. An acre of this green corn has been weighed at Bow Park and found to reach the enormous weight of 36 tons. From 60 to 70 acres of Canadian corn are planted early in June, and immediately after it comes the catch crops of western corn, which are taken from the fields where the mixture of oats, pease and tares grew. With this mode of cropping, about 70 acres are found amply sufficient to supply the herd with food from the 1st of May till the end of September; then the aftermath of the meadows furnish a sufficient supply until it is time for the cattle to be housed.

For winter use, the early planted western corn and the later Canadian, the Hungarian grass and hay, along with the unused mixture of oats, pease and tares, with the addition of turnips and mangolds, are found amply sufficient to carry the stock over till May. Large quantities of the bran, along with oilcake and Indian corn, are purchased for the stock. A considerable extent of ground is always under wheat and barley, and about 50 acres are also under turnips and mangolds.

The management of the large herd, which is the largest in the world of short-horns, is in the hands of Mr. John Hope, from Northumberland. The herd generally numbers from three to four hundred head, and is composed of all the most famous families of shorthorns in the world. Regarding the various families on this farm, suffice it to say that the Adelizas, Cambridge, Countess, and the aristocratic Duchesses of Aylmer, Barrington, Clarence, Dereham, Oxford, Woodhill, and the famous Kirklevingtons, along with the celebrated Knightly Grand Duchess, and the Oxford, Waterloos, and Wild Eyes, are to be found here in all their purity and grandeur, having excellent shapes and high-bred pedigree combined.

The Canadian farmers have scarcely yet begun to realize the value and importance of having a good class of cattle, but I have no doubt they will soon find this out, and draw more largely from the stock of Bow Park and similar herds. As yet the Bow Park shorthorns have been generally sold to go to the States. At a sale which lately took place in Chicago, a draft of forty head from this herd realized the average of 60 guineas each.

Woodstock is the Capital of the County of Oxford, and has a population of 4,000 inhabitants; the lands throughout the county are generally good, rolling and well watered by creeks. This county has been settled for forty years, and, consequently, is well cleared, not having much bush, in fact, not more than is necessary to supply the farmers with the timber required upon their farms. There are several gravel pits throughout the county; and it possesses better roads than many of its neighbours. Good and well-cleared farms sell from £12 to £15 an acre. A drive of four miles from Woodstock takes the visitor to the Township of Zorra, and to the farm of Huntingford, occupied by Mr. William Donaldson, who went from the neighbourhood of Dalston, Cumberland, a number of years ago. Mr. Donaldson is one of the model farmers in this section of the country, and owns a farm 300 acres nearly all cleared, sufficient bush only remaining to protect the stock from the sun's rays, and for the supply of the farm. The buildings on this farm are good, and much superior as regards accommodation and convenience to those generally seen throughout the country. A large stock of cattle is kept here, and a considerable number of good-graded steers are fattened. In the feeding, the allowance of roots amounts to about 60 lbs., and a liberal allowance of mixed grain and bran is also used. For the summer season Mr. Donaldson estimates the expense of grazing and feeding cattle at 13s. per month, and about double that sum for the winter months when a mixture of grain is used. A nice flock of breeding ewes is kept, which, with careful housing during the winter season, pay handsomely. The expense of keeping sheep a week on grass is estimated at 3l. per head, and for wintering, about double that sum, when an allowance of artificial food is given. The land in this section being good, crops grow abundantly and yield well. The Clawson variety of wheat has threshed on an average about 34 bushels an acre on good farms this season. The yield of the coarse grains, such as barley, oats and pease, may be stated at 40, 50 and 30 bushels respectively. Clover seeds are not much ripened, but where ripened would thresh from two to three bushels per acre. When clover seeds are ripened it is always the second crop, or, as it is called in this country, the aftermath, which is ripened, cut and threshed.

In harvest, a more expeditious mode of working prevails than here, and in order to show it may be mentioned that a machine will cut the same quantity as here, or, say ten acres a day, and these acres are lifted by five men, exclusive of the driver of the machine, stooking being done at noon and night by all hands. The current rate of wages, where men are engaged by the year, is £30 with board, and during haying and harvest from 4s. to 6s. a day with board, and during these busy seasons

the men work from daylight till dark. There are several cheese factories in this county, and a very extensive one in the Township of Zorra, at which the milk of about one thousand cows is made into cheese, great care being taken in producing a good article. The following figures, given by Mr. W. Eager, of the South Mountain Cheese Factory, may be of interest. Mr. Eager manufactured about eighty tons of cheese last season, and in the manufacture the milk of one thousand cows was used. The farmers deliver their milk at the manufactory, and the cost of manufacture is $1\frac{1}{2}$ cents per lb. of cheese. Manufacturing commences on the 1st of May and ends on the 20th of October. The estimates for the average of the season is that 10 lbs. of milk will produce 1 lb. of cheese, and a calculation is made that it costs 10 cents (or 5d.) per lb. to produce 1 lb. of cheese, before it is put in good shipping condition; cheese cannot be sold but at a loss to the farmers below 5d. per lb. Mr. E. had six men employed at his manufactories, and in the making of eighty tons of cheese. The yield of milk is most abundant during the month of June, when the cows will give twenty-six pounds each, consequently producing fully $2\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of cheese; the month of July is the worst of the whole season, and in this month the milk is richest, when $8\frac{1}{2}$ lbs. of milk will produce 1 lb. of cheese. Farmers consider themselves fairly paid if they get £6 for the cows' milk during the cheese-making season.

COUNTIES OF ESSEX AND KENT.

These two south-western counties are generally called the Western Peninsula, and are the most southerly portions of the Dominion. A good proportion of these counties seems to have been neglected, from the fact that settlers generally found a comfortable home before reaching them, or passed through them on their onward march to the North-West. There is still a considerable extent of the primeval forest to be seen where the woodman's axe has not laid the giant of the forest, still these immense trees are giving place by nature to cultivation, and from the obstructions caused by them in a country so flat as these counties, which lately were without ditches to carry off the water, the general character of the country was considered of a swampy nature. For the rapid progress and speedy development of these counties great barriers exist, such as the Canada Company, and other land speculators who hold their lands too high in price. It is probably within the last fifteen years that these counties have been opened up, and from their geographical position, it is evident they have been neglected. They are almost surrounded by water, and, undoubtedly, they possess the finest and mildest climate of any portion of the Dominion. They have also the advantage of being traversed east and west by two first-class railroads, and as they are surrounded by navigable waters, their facilities for trade and commerce are very great. Windsor is the Capital of Essex, is situated on the banks of the River Detroit, and has a population of 4,500 inhabitants. There are a few manufactories in Windsor, but the principal industry is the large distillery of Messrs. Walker, who employ two hundred men. At this distillery 1,800 bushels of grain, chiefly Indian corn, are used daily, and their capacity for malting, which is entirely separate from the distilling, is 500 bushels of barley daily for eight months in the year. At this distillery 2,000 head of cattle are annually fattened for the English market, the food being the slop along with hay, of which some 3,000 tons are required. To raise this hay and other crops some 2,000 acres of land are cultivated in the vicinity of Windsor. The cattle are tied up in the month of October, and with the winter's feeding they are ready to ship in the month of May. A drive of ten miles from Windsor takes the visitor to a farm which eight years ago was solid bush. The extent of this farm is 850 acres in one block, and of this extent 200 acres have been cleared, and in a very good state of cultivation. The crops grown are wheat, barley, oats and corn.

The average of the wheat has been 25 bushels per acre, barley 40, and oats 50 to 60 bushels. Magnificent crops of corn are raised and fed to hogs, of which 100 are fed annually. In this section a good rotation of cropping is supposed to be as follows, viz.: corn, wheat, barley, or oats, which is sown down with timothy and clover.

Drill sowing is generally resorted to for the wheat, and two bushels of seed allowed per acre. One peck of corn is sufficient to plant an acre; and as the corn takes the place of the green crop in this country, it is necessary to cultivate it both ways, good farmers performing this operation twice during the season to ensure the land being afterwards thoroughly clean. Throughout the County of Essex farms are to be found in abundance, with 60 or 70 acres cleared, which only fifteen years ago was heavy bush. These farms, variously improved, are now selling from £6 to £9 an acre. Orchards, varying in extent from one to twenty acres, are scattered all over the country, and the produce forms a considerable source of revenue to their owners. The neighbouring County of Kent has for its Capital Chatham, which has a population of 5,000 inhabitants. In Chatham is to be found one of the best markets in West Ontario, where a very large business is done in grain and hogs, which are fattened in great numbers all over the country. Chatham is situated on the River Thames, and on the river banks there are some of the finest farms and richest land in the province, which frequently sells as high as £15 to £20 an acre. The Township of Tilbury East is twelve miles from Chatham, and is settled by Donside and Cromar men, who left their native country from eight to ten years ago; they now all feel proud of the land of their adoption, and are, like many others, sorry they did not cross the Atlantic at an earlier date. In this section, which is young, a good deal more corn is grown than in any other part of the country.

Indian corn is always taken off newly reclaimed land, and frequently four or five crops are taken in succession. The corn is planted about the latter half of May, and good crops average from 70 to 100 bushels in the husk. A drive from Chatham to Ridgetown, Buckhorn and Blenheim takes the traveller through a magnificent country, which is celebrated for its fine wheat and Indian corn fields.

From the similarity of the Counties of Essex and Kent, the remarks applied to the one may appropriately be applied to the other; and from their favourable location, rich soil and mild climate, they are, probably, as well worth the attention of the settler as any other part of the province. Wild lands are held from £3 to £4 an acre, and the expense of clearing is estimated to cost another £3. This wild land takes about eight years before it can be stumped and thoroughly free of roots, but some of the more enterprising farmers have stumping machines which extract them upon being relieved of the surrounding earth.

The Counties of Lincoln and Welland form the garden of Canada for fruit; the farmers mostly derive their living from the produce of the orchard and the vineyard. The extent of these orchards vary from one acre up to twenty, and, on the whole, they are highly remunerative.

In the neighbourhood of Grimsby Mr. Kitchen owns a large orchard which extends to some 60 acres. This orchard contains some 3,000 apple trees and 500 standards of the finer varieties of fruit, such as cherry, peach, pear and plum trees. There is also a very productive vineyard which contains 1,000 grape vines. Last season the produce of the orchard was some 2,000 barrels of apples, which were sold at 8s. a barrel, and the average yearly sales of the produce of the orchard and the vineyard amounts to some £1,600 or £1,800. When a new orchard is planted out, 150 apple trees are required an acre, but in many cases the number of apple trees is reduced, and a row of peach or other trees intervene.

On driving through these counties, it appears very evident that the farmers give more attention to their orchards than their farms; it too frequently happens that the manure is applied to the apple trees, and the wheat fields left without, consequently, these counties are much exhausted from an agricultural point of view.

NIAGARA FALLS.

When this great cataract first presents itself to the visitor he is disappointed; but upon a more minute examination of this great wonder of the world, and a little division of thought from the one great sight to the other, the grandeur grows upon the visitor's imagination and firmly rivets his attention. When the

Falls are approached from the railway, the first thing to be seen is the immense bridge of 750 feet which here spans the river. Below this bridge, and up the river to the Falls, the water is perfectly calm and placid, without even a ripple upon the surface. This is always so, as the waters upon the surface move slowly, but at a depth of a few feet there is an undercurrent which moves on at a great velocity.

About half way between the railway bridge and the Falls is the Suspension Bridge of nearly 1,300 feet long. A mile farther on the Great Falls are reached. The great breadth of the river, as compared with the height of the precipice, detracts from the grand appearance of the Great Horseshoe Falls, with its great columns of spray. At the foot of the cataract it is possible, though hazardous, to penetrate thirty yards behind the gigantic concave sheet of headlong flood, where a cavern is formed of about 150 feet in height, 50 in breadth and 300 in length. The perilous path lies along the narrow margin of whirling eddies, beneath impending rocks and amidst the jarring elements. Some amount of self-possession is, therefore, necessary in making the attempt, for one false step might plunge the adventurer into the horrible vortex beneath. It is probably from near the Falls that the best view of the rapids above is to be had; and as the river widens here considerably and the waters flow rapidly over the broken limestone rock, the sight is truly grand, and one which cannot be forgotten. The burning spring, which is about a mile above the Falls, is another object of interest. This spring was first discovered by the Indians, who had an encampment near by, and by some means the vapour, which is sulphuretted hydrogen gas, got ignited, and frightened them from their place of abode. This gas is now conducted by a small pipe from the well, burns constantly, and sends forth a brilliant, clear light. The visitor to the Falls the first time is justly startled with the rapidity the dollars take their departure. The tolls are so numerous and the charges in every way so absurd, that money seems here of no value. There is a great necessity, and it surely will yet be that the Governments of the two countries will do something in the way of making an International Park, charging a certain sum for admission, and thereby put an end to the present legalized system of robbery which is practiced on all, and almost by all, alike.

The Great Falls are left behind, and the celebrated Welland Canal crossed, and a visit made to the Whitby district, which lies east of Toronto. In this district Mr. James I. Davidson, who went from the Parish of Monguitter a number of years ago, now owns a large farm. Mr. D. is an intelligent agriculturist, a representative farmer in every way, also takes a most important part in the promotion of agriculture and in the improvement of the shorthorn cattle and the Clydesdale breed of horses. Mr. D. has just completed the building of a splendid house, and he has got superior and extensive barns and stables well filled with good shorthorn cattle and superior Clydesdale horses. The experience of this intelligent farmer corroborates the statements of other famous breeders, that the farmers of Canada do not take the full advantage of their herds for the improvement of their stock. Mr. D., like others, always finds a better market in the States for good shorthorn bulls and first-class Clydesdale mares. Lands in this section very much resembles the Counties of Oxford and Wellington, the mode of cultivation and the crops grown are very similar, good fields of turnips being grown as in the other counties, without the aid of artificial manure. Mr. D. had fifteen acres of turnips this season, and from the appearance which the bulbs presented, the crop must have been a very good one. This is one of the best sections in Ontario, and good farms near Whitby have been sold as high as £21 an acre, but the general price is from £16 to £18.

I may here remark that, on passing through the Town of Whitby a few days before Christmas, I saw a dressed hog in a butcher's shop which weighed 800 lbs.

A brief visit through the County of Dufferin, which has been made by a sloop from each of the Counties of Wellington, Simcoe and Gray, reveals the fact that the agriculture is quite as good in the Townships of Albion, Adjala, Decumbach and Essie as is to be found in Ontario. In these townships good farms can be purchased from £12 to £16 an acre; and where the latter price is given the farms would be well located and have the best class of buildings.

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Orangeville has been made the Capital of the county, and around it the land is a light sandy loam resting on gravel; and where such is the case, the price would be from £4 to £8 an acre, depending upon the amount of the clearance. The Orangeville district is famed for the production of superior oats.

A run through the Counties of Bruce and Gray satisfies the visitor that, although the land is much cheaper than in the southern portion of the province, it is good and worth the attention of the settler. The soil varies considerably from light sandy loam, with stones scattered over the surface, to heavy clay, free of stones; still, with good and careful farming, and an industrious class of farmers, these counties will soon be as far advanced as their rivals, and present a different appearance. In many of the townships the houses present rather a rough appearance; still, as the country gets older, these houses will be replaced with a better class built of brick or boards. Farms can be purchased from £5 to £8 an acre.

Montreal, formerly the Indian Village of Hochelaga, is situated on the north bank of the St. Lawrence, and on the beautiful Island of Montreal, which is 32 miles long by from 10 to 12 in width. The surface of the island is almost flat, with the exception of the mountain, which rises from 500 to 600 feet higher than the river. Along the base of the mountain and to the summit, trees grow in luxuriant variety, and in the fall of the year, when the maple trees change their tint, the view from the city is one of sublime grandeur. From the summit of the mountain the prospect is exceedingly picturesque. Away in the distant south the blue hills of Vermont rise to view, and all around a vast extent of thickly inhabited, richly cultivated and fertile country, embellished with woods and waters, producing a scene of singular beauty.

Montreal is built at the foot of the mountain, and where the city now stands there stood an Indian village in 1640.

The population in 1825 was 22,357, and in 1844, by census, it had reached 44,993, and now the estimate has reached 180,000. These figures show the growth of the city, and they also indicate in some way the rapid growth of the country. Montreal is well built of substantial stone, very much resembling our Aberdeen granite, but lighter in colour.

From a commercial point of view, this is the most important city in the Dominion; it is situated at the head of the ocean steam shipping, and possesses splendid docks, which are being enlarged and rebuilt of stone. From these natural advantages for trade and commerce, the citizens of Montreal certainly show no lack of enterprise, so far as mercantile and manufacturing interests are concerned. Montreal has rapidly increased in the extent and importance of her trade, and from the appearance of the stores, and the magnificent public and private buildings, indications are abundant regarding the wealth and prosperity of the city. The Bank of Montreal, which occupies the same position in Canada as the Bank of England does in this country, has its head office in the city. In a report like this it is unnecessary to enumerate the various buildings of a substantial character and attractive appearance, but will pass on, simply observing that the finest hotel in Canada, and certainly one of the finest in the world, is to be found in the "Windsor," which is a perfect palace in every sense.

The land on the island is remarkably good and very fertile, being of a rich loamy nature, and capable of producing good crops of all kinds. The farms vary in extent from 100 to 300 acres, and sell, according to the desirability of the holding, from £10 to £12 an acre. In the vicinity of the city some farmers have their farms rented, and pay as much as £1, and even in some extreme cases, £1 5s. an acre.

Barley is largely grown, and averages about 45 bushels, weighing 50 lbs. per bushel. Oats are not much grown. Potatoes are raised in great quantities; from 200 to 300 bushels are grown per acre. Great quantities of fruit and vegetables are raised for the market, which is the best in the Dominion for the sale of the produce of the farm, the orchard and the garden. As the farmers have enjoyed the benefits of a good market for a considerable time, they are consequently in comfortable and easy circumstances. Probably some of the most successful farmers in Canada are within the hearing of the bells of Montreal.

EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

These townships are in the Province of Quebec, lie south of the River St. Lawrence, between Montreal and Quebec, and border on the United States. They are probably not so well known as they ought to be, from the fact that from Quebec to Richmond, which is the junction where cars are changed for Sherbrooke, the country presents a very rough and unattractive appearance. For these reasons settlers move farther west, and never stop to enter the townships, although they offer inducements which probably are not to be found in any other part of the Dominion. The general features of the country are rolling, with flats, slopes and ridges, interspersed with stone; and as good water is generally to be found where stone is, a sufficient supply of running springs of clear, pure water present themselves along the roadsides. As in every rolling country the soil varies, so in the townships. In the flats and along the river side the soil is deep alluvial, and of a very rich and fertile nature; on the slopes the soil, although not so deep nor rich, still is kindly, producing good crops of all kinds. On some of the ridges the soil is thin, and frequently of a gravelly nature, whilst on others it is better, and susceptible of being profitably cultivated. There is still a considerable extent under wood, from the fact that the townships have been neglected and overlooked by settlers. There are many kinds of wood grown, and amongst them the following may be enumerated: ash, basswood, birch, butternut, cedar, elm, hickory, maple (hard and soft) and spruce. Regarding the climate, it may be said that the summer is as good as in Ontario, and that whilst the winter, although possibly about two weeks longer than in Ontario, still the townships are more favourably situated than any other part of the Province of Quebec, and therefore have got the mildest climate in that province. As in all other provinces, the inhabitants are of a mixed breed, being chiefly of English, Scotch, Irish and French extraction, the latter being the most numerous.

As is everywhere to be seen, the old countrymen make the best settlers. Where the French Canadians prevail there is a marked difference in the character of the buildings and in the cultivation of the farm, and where they predominate prosperity is generally wanting.

The Eastern Townships are well opened up by railways, and they possess every advantage as regards the transit of stock and produce to markets and shipping ports.

Sherbrooke is the largest town in the townships, and contains various manufactories of considerable importance, chiefly to supply local wants. From an agriculturist's point of view, the chief feature of attraction is the large and fine farm of Hillhurst, in Compton Township, which is known all over the world as of shorthorn fame. This extensive farm is owned by the Hon. M. H. Cochrane, and consists of about 1,000 acres, 300 acres being cultivated and 300 permanent pasture, the balance being useful bush, growing good grass for stock. The course of cropping pursued on Hillhurst is as follows: 1st crop oats, 2nd roots, 3rd wheat or barley sown down with timothy and clover, then grass, the first two years being always cut for hay, of which the second season produces the most. Hillhurst is in every way a model farm and Mr. Cochrane is a model farmer; his land is naturally stony, and advantage has been taken of the stones in building good stone dykes along the road which intersects the farm. The buildings are very extensive and commodious, providing ample accommodation for the large stud of horses, the fine herd of aristocratic shorthorns, and the magnificent flock of Shropshire sheep. On such a farm as Hillhurst a good stud of horses is to be expected, and those who are fortunate to pay a visit will in no way be disappointed in their expectations. The work horses are good and well bred, and the riding horses are the pride and admiration of the townships. In 1877, Mr. Simon Beattie, of Annan, imported a number of shorthorns from Mr. Cochrane, and the proceeds of sale amounted to £17,150 sterling. At this spirited sale the price of 4300 guineas was paid for one cow of aristocratic lineage. A very large herd is still maintained, numbering at times over eighty head. Upon an examination of the contents of the various loose boxes, one of the first inmates to be seen is the beautiful rich-

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roan lovely cow of 10 years, the 10th Duchess of Airdrie. The progeny of this valuable cow have realized the handsome sum of £27,000. Specimens of the famous Dukes and Duchesses of Hillhurst, and the highly-prized Kirklevingtons, are here to be seen in all their purity and grandeur, and to use the words of the most eminent breeder of Polled cattle the world ever saw, "They carry their pedigree on their backs," may safely be applied to this herd.

Mr. Cochrane is giving increased attention to the feeding of cattle for the English market, which he finds to be very profitable, and as many as 100 are prepared during the season. The lean beasts are bought during the months of October and November, generally averaging about £8 a head, and with seven months' good keep, they are expected to realize £18, which leaves a handsome profit for feeding. The system of feeding the cattle is similar to that to be found in Ontario, but on a larger scale. Pulped roots are used in limited quantities along with cut hay and straw and a mixture of feeding meals, the produce of the farm, and composed of oats, pease and tares, along with bran, and in some instances oil-cakes.

A large flock of feeding sheep pick up the foggage which is left by the cattle, and on the approach of winter they are carefully housed, and receive hay and roots. The flock is always ready for the English market before the season is over, and generally before it is far advanced. As a breeder of good horses, superior cattle, and excellent sheep and pigs, Mr. Cochrane has been very successful, and, no doubt, the produce of his herd and flock will yet leave their marks on the stocking of Canada.

In the Township of Cookshire the Hon. J. H. Pope owns a very large farm, extending to about 1,000 acres, of which a considerable extent is under cultivation. Upon this farm, which is well adapted for stock, as many as 150 bullocks are fed for the English market. The system of feeding is similar to that already described on other farms; so is also the mode of cultivation and variety of crops raised.

In the Province of Quebec the Government grant was 200 acres, and now the farms vary in extent from 100 acres upwards. The farms are subdivided in a similar manner to what has been described in a previous part of this report. A few stone dykes are seen, but the snake fence predominates; the chief objection to this fence is the great extent of ground it takes up.

The cereals grown are wheat, barley, and oats to a limited extent. The crops may be said to average as follows:—wheat 20 bushels, oats 40, and barley about 35. The products of the garden, such as apples, pears and tomatoes grow luxuriantly. Farms can be purchased, according to soil, buildings, and situation, from £5 to £6 an acre. One great advantage of the land in the townships is that it will lie in grass for a number of years, rendering the country well adapted for sheep and cattle raising, and from the great quantities of hay raised, a large number of stock is kept, although not so many as might well and profitably be. It is calculated that ten sheep can be wintered on one ton of hay, and a two-year bullock will require about one ton and three-quarters. Over all the townships, as well as over the country, sheep seem to thrive admirably; no matter how young they are, they are always in good condition for their age, and flocks of lean sheep as we have in this country are not to be seen at all.

Dairies are scattered all over the townships, and the grass being very rich a good class of cheese is made. The system adopted is similar to that already described, and conducted on the same principle. A large quantity of butter is also made, 22 lbs. of milk being required to produce 1 lb. of butter. For the butter and cheese manufactured a ready market is found in the New England States.

The townships are fairly well supplied with churches and schools. The taxes are generally light, and depend upon the value of the property, and may be placed at from 4d. to 10d. per acre.

The best townships are Ascot, Compton, Barnston, Bary, Durham, Dudswell, Eton, Skipton and Kingsley.

Labourers are plentiful all over, and at wages much similar to what are paid on this side.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Nova Scotia is the most easterly province of the Dominion, and is a peninsula situated between 43° 30' and 46° north latitude, and 60° to 66° 15' west longitude. It comprises an area of 21,731 square miles, of which one-fifth consists of lakes, rivers, and inlets of the sea. The province is divided into eighteen counties, of which the best are Cumberland, Colchester and Pictou. Grand Pré, the scene of Longfellow's "Evangeline," is called the garden of the province. Some 2,000,000 of acres of land are cleared and may be said to be under cultivation.

This province, as yet little known to outsiders, is worthy of greater consideration, notwithstanding that on first approaching it from the ocean a bleak and bare appearance presents itself; but this is often to be found in our own country, since rocks and sea walls do not form the flower of scenery. However, after emerging from the seaboard and reaching the interior of the country afterthoughts flow into the visitor's mind, as good soil with beautiful surroundings, blessed with a bright, clear sky and fine climate, always create glowing feelings. When speaking of the climate and temperature it may be stated, what is well known, these are in some measure regulated by the Gulf Stream. It is not possible in such a report as this to speak of every county and district, but it may be said the climate of the province varies in the different counties, and is regulated so far by that which regulates our own.

GENERAL FEATURES.

By taking a sweeping and distant view a wild, rough appearance presents itself, marsh, bush, and hill alternating, the wildness of the bush slowly giving place to the powers of the agriculturist. Here there is a rounded mound clad with stately trees, a beautiful plain traversed by a flowing stream gently gliding along the level expanse, and here the bold and picturesque ruggedness well known to the traveller in the Highlands of Scotland—deep and well wooded ravines opening cut into dense but valuable forest, in the depths of which the sound of the woodman's axe has not yet been heard; here both the meandering brook and the majestic river have their places.

But though in the province there is the grandest scenery, with wild and lovely contour, there are also low but lovely plains deadened by the nearness of the mighty sea walls necessary for stemming the immense tides familiar to the inhabitants of Nova Scotia. Regarding these tides it may be mentioned they rise at certain times to an immense—sometimes to the incredible—height of forty feet. These tides necessitate the use of abiteaux or dykes at the sea side, provided with sluices and clappers on the outside, to keep back the tide. These dykes are a permanent erection of marsh soil and brush, and are built according to the rise of the tide, and vary in the interior of the country from 20 to 30 feet in height. The height of the neap tides is about 35 feet, and the highest spring tides rise to about 50 feet. In 1868 a high tide was predicted by Saxby, in London, England, and occurred during night in the month of October, 1869. This tide rose to about a foot above the tops of the dykes, and was attended at the time with very bad results, as it swept barns, fences and haystacks before it, and landed a great many of them in the woods. Although the results of this tide were at the time disastrous, still afterwards it was of immense advantage, as it gave the marshes a good top dressing of that mud which is so abundant on the banks of the creeks and rivers. During my short visit to Nova Scotia I passed through many of these marshes, some of them of considerable breadth and many miles long, all guarded by dykes, in which are placed sluices, which, when necessary, can be opened, and allow the tide to overflow the salt marshes, and leave a rich deposit of alluvial matter on the surface, amounting to one or more inches, acting as a grand stimulus for future crops. Crops of hay, varying from two to three tons per acre, have been grown on these marshes for many years in succession. When the land becomes mossy or hide-bound, which it does on some marshes every ten or fifteen years, a crop of oats is taken and seeded down with timothy and red clover. Couch grass is indigenous to the soil, and comes in natural. On the

creek banks there are two kinds of marsh lands; the blue or soft mud is the poorest and grows the broad leaf or coarse grass; the other kind being the red, and is the deposit left nearest the creek or river banks, which affords very rich pasture and heavy crops of superior hay. The coarse hay is built into stacks, and the fine or English (as it is called) is stored into barns on the marshes, and drawn home as required during the winter season. Good marshes realize high prices, and sell from £20 to £25 an acre; but even this latter sum, for the best of the marshes, is often very much exceeded.

Farms vary in size from 100 acres and upwards, and good upland farms, with all the necessary buildings, with one-third or one-half improved, may be bought from £3 to £6 an acre. Upon the upland or cleared land, the principal crops are wheat, buckwheat and oats. Potatoes grow well, and good crops average about 250 bushels per acre. A good market for the potatoes is generally found in the United States, and brings the farmers lots of money. Few turnips have yet been grown, but in all probability the quantity will increase. From the fact that the marshes of Nova Scotia produce such magnificent crops of hay, which makes food for all kinds of stock so abundant, it is not to be wondered at that the farmers have begun to give increased attention to the breeding and feeding of cattle. Upon some farms there are already large herds of cattle fattening for the English market; and those farmers who have been at this business for some time find it to be very profitable, and intend to embark in it on a more extensive scale.

A company has been formed at Amherst called the Cumberland Meat and Produce Company; and from the proximity of Amherst to Halifax, which is the only Canadian port open during the winter, the farmers have additional facilities which act as another incentive in the production of meat and other produce such as butter and cheese. Orchards are abundant all over the province, and the fruit forms one of the principal exports.

The fisheries are likewise very valuable, and form a considerable source of revenue to the province, yielding over £1,000,000 last year. Although signs of prosperity are not wanting amongst the farmers, still signs of the lack of enterprise are abundant, as the country is susceptible of very great improvement. Farmers appear in many cases to live upon the prices realized for their hay and their apples, for farming as it should be there is little to be seen.

In order to show the prosperity of Canada, it may be mentioned that the banking capital in the Dominion has been increased more than 100 per cent. during the last ten years.

TABLE SHOWING THE INCREASE IN THE DEPOSITS IN TEN YEARS.

1868.	
Deposits in Chartered Banks	\$32,808,103
Government Savings and Post Office Savings Banks...	1,686,126
	<hr/> \$34,494,229
1878.	
Deposits in Chartered Banks.....	\$71,900,195
Government Savings and Post Office Savings Banks...	14,333,576
	<hr/> \$86,233,771
	<hr/> 34,494,229
Increase in ten years.....	\$51,739,542

These deposits do not by any means represent the savings of the people, as there is a considerable sum deposited in building societies, whilst the bulk of the savings in Canada is generally invested in real estate.

An important thing for an emigrant in selecting a new country is to choose one with very little debt, and what debt there is expended on public works which are

remunerative and for the progress and development of the country. The claims of Canada are in this respect very great, the debt being low, and there is little probability of it being very much increased, since the canals are in good order and the country well supplied with railways.

The following figures show the debt and interest, along with the consolidated revenue, for 1879 :—

DEBT AND INTEREST PER CAPITA OF POPULATION.

Net debt per capita in 1877.....	\$33 25
Gross debt " "	43 50
Net interest " "	1 60

RECEIPTS PER CAPITA.

Consolidated revenue for fiscal year 1877 (per capita).....	\$5 62
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In order to show that Canada is receiving increased attention it may be mentioned that the number of immigrants in 1877 was 54,908, and in 1878 the number was 71,160, or an increase of 16,252.

The following figures, showing the progressive development of Canada, will be found of interest. They are taken from *The Colonies and India* of the 24th January, 1880 :—

"In 1851 there were only some 8,000,000 acres of land under cultivation, whereas the census of 1871 showed that the total acreage occupied in Canada was some 36,000,000, of which the greater part was improved. By 1851 the farmers raised some 16,000,000 bushels of wheat, and the production may now be estimated at 25,000,000 bushels. In 1857 wheat was the principal crop, but since then the farmers began to give their attention to other products, and the result is the oat crop has risen from 25,000,000 bushels, in 1851, to 50,000,000 bushels, in 1879; potatoes, from 15,000,000 bushels to 50,000,000 bushels; barley, from 1,500,000 bushels to 12,000,000 bushels. The yield of wheat per acre in Ontario is in excess of nearly all the States of the American Union."

The revenue, which in 1840 was 1,000,000 dollars, amounted to 13,000,000 in 1864, and now amounts to 22,000,000 dollars.

In 1857 the total value of the trade of Canada was not in excess of 60,000,000 dollars. In 1868-69 the total trade reached over 130,000,000 dollars.

Looking at the nature of the exports, we find the annual value of the produce of the fisheries was nearly 7,000,000 dollars, of the forest 20,000,000, and of agriculture 31,000,000 dollars.

Perhaps no statistics more clearly illustrates the material progress of Canada than those which are devoted to her shipping and railways.

It is the pride and boast of Canada that her people have that love for the sea which is the natural heritage for the men of the north.

The little Province of Nova Scotia owns more shipping, in proportion to her population of some 400,000 souls, than any other country in the world. In 1806 all British North America only owned a tonnage of 71,943; in 1879, the total tonnage reached some 1,350,000 tons register, representing 7,469 vessels, valued at 40,000,000 dollars, and entitling Canada to rank with Norway, after England and the United States, as a mercantile people. The tonnage engaged, inwards and outwards, between Canada and foreign ports, reached 12,000,000, and adding the vessels employed in the coasting trade, there is a total of 23,000,000 tons necessary for carrying on the present trade of Canada.

The era of railway construction in Canada only dates from 1850. In 1854 there were only some 40 miles altogether in operation, whilst in 1867 the number had increased to 2,253 miles. At the present time there are 7,000 miles rails laid, and over 1,000 miles in course of construction.

THE ST. LAWRENCE PROVISION TRADE.

The increase of shipments from Montreal and Quebec during the season that has recently closed is of a very marked description as compared with the corresponding shipping season of the two previous years. The exportation of live stock was as follows:—

	1879.	1878.	1877.
Cattle	24,823	18,655	6,940
Sheep	78,792	41,250	9,599
Swine	4,745	2,078	430

The increase of numbers is not the most gratifying part of it, but the fact that of the 18,655 cattle exported in 1878 fully one-half were American cattle, whereas in the present year they were all Canadian. The shipments of cereals also showed a very considerable increase:—

	1879.	1878.
Flour, barrels.....	626,593	602,658
Wheat, bushels.....	9,535,144	5,749,347
Corn, "	4,004,708	5,612,990
Pease, "	2,402,691	1,905,086
Oats, "	618,531	918,946
Barley, "	413,592	203,239
Rye, "	333,491	38,267
Total.....	17,308,367	14,32,875

The great feature in the development of the grain shipments was the establishment of a direct export trade with European Continental ports, instead of serving them, as heretofore, through agents or middlemen in England. The remaining shipments in provisions were:—

	1879.	1878.	1877.
Cheese, boxes	515,360	455,449	398,138
Butter, pkgs.....	180,863	101,596	87,245

The following figures, prepared by Mr. Frederick Young, shows that the populations of the British Empire, beyond the seas, are in proportion to their numbers the most extensive users of our manufactures. The annual consumption of British merchandize, per head, is as follows:—United States, 7s.; Germany, 9s. 2d.; France, 7s. 8d.; Canada, £2 2s. 9d.; Australia, £8 10s. 8d.

Mr. Burnett, of Kenmay, said he had paid three visits to Canada, and his impressions of the country corresponded with those of Mr. Bruce.

The Chairman said that Canada was the country for the man who was able and willing to work, and who had a good sturdy wife—no matter how many children; but the like of many of those present, who were in their fifth, sixth, or seventh decades, had better stay at home. He wished that Canada should thrive and prosper, but he hoped that Scotchmen, even though they emigrated there, would always have a warm corner in their hearts for the Old Country. (Applause).

Votes of thanks having been accorded to the delegate and to the Chairman, the meeting separated.

REPORT OF MR. ROBERT WALLACE, THE NITHSDALE DELEGATE.

A meeting of the farmers of Upper Nithsdale was held at Penpont on Monday, January 19th, to hear the report of Mr. Robert Wallace, Twiglees, the delegate appointed by the district to proceed to Canada and report upon that country as a field for the emigration of agriculturists. There was a very large attendance, the room being crowded. Mr. James Hewitson, Auchencrainzie, was called to the chair.

The Chairman, in a few appropriate remarks, introduced Mr. Wallace, who proceeded to give his report as follows:—

INTRODUCTION.

Having returned from a sojourn in Canada of about three months, I now propose to lay before you my opinion of the country. I need hardly mention that in the fall of last year the Canadian Government requested that the farmers of the United Kingdom should hold meetings and appoint delegates to go out and travel through the country, and deliver reports to their friends at home of what they thought of it, stating whether it would be advisable for many British farmers in the present depressed state of trade to emigrate. This accounts for my being here to-night, and I will just take this opportunity of correcting some misapprehensions with regard to our freedom of action while engaged in our work of inspection which may have crept in after the publication of a letter in the *Glasgow Herald* of September 20th, and other like political productions. The statements of our being taken about the country simply where the Government wished, and shown only those things which would lead us to give favourable reports, were entirely without foundation. We were guided solely by our desires to go where we liked and do as we pleased, and no influence whatever was brought to bear to bias our opinion in any way. We have every reason to be pleased with the handsome manner in which we were treated, and the assistance afforded when desired to facilitate our movements. In my report I will not confine myself to facts which I have seen and heard, but will give you my opinion on matters social and political, as I judge it may be of interest to you or connected with the subject under discussion. I may also here explain that Canadians do not care to be classed with their neighbours of the United States, and throughout I shall make the distinction, and speak of "Canadians" and "Americans" as is done on the other side. There is no ill-feeling whatever existing between the two countries, only a spirit of healthy rivalry, and I may say of the Canadian people that Her Majesty has perhaps no more loyal subjects through all her dominions. They talk of Britain as the "Old Country," and call it "home," even supposing they had never been there.

RÉSUMÉ OF ROUTE.

I travelled by sea and land, in round numbers about 11,000 English miles. Although I had reason to regret I was perhaps a month late, consequently missing the National Agricultural Exhibition and other shows, I was favoured with excellent weather. Landing at Quebec I first visited the Eastern Townships, accompanied by Mr. Welsh, the Canobie delegate. We next went through some portions of Ontario, and being joined by Mr. Gordon, from Annapolis District, and Mr. Wilkin, from Aberdeenshire, we sailed up Lakes Huron and Superior, and landing at Duluth, took train *via* Glyndon for Manitoba. Here we drove about in four-wheeled, two-horse "buggies" and six-seated "democrats," the usual vehicles of the country, and got a good idea of the land surrounding Winnipeg. We then had a six days' drive in a south-westerly direction as far as Rocklake to see a sample of good prairie land, returning by Emerson through the west Mennonite settlement. This is on a reservation of excellent land given by Government to a class of German-speaking Russians whose religion prohibits them from fighting. They are making money, but like the Chinese, make it a prisoner. From Emerson we took train, and after visiting Minneapolis, St. Paul's, Milwaukee and Chicago, four rising American cities of great

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beauty and vast interest, Mr. Welsh and I returned to Ontario, thence to Ottawa and home by Halifax.

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The districts of the Eastern Townships—Province of Quebec—which I visited were in or around Richmond, Sherbrooke, Cookshire, Eaton, New Port, Lennoxville, Compton, Waterloo, Cowan's Ville and Bedford. Scenery is fine, and we have hill and dale as in Scotland, with woods of sugar-maple, from which the sap is collected to make sugar; soft maple whose beautiful bright scarlet leaves lend a grandeur to the landscape in autumn; hemlock, the bark of which is used for tanning; cedar furnishing the most valuable and durable wood for fencing; spruce and pine. Everywhere there is an abundant supply of the best of water. The soil is not hard and shallow as is often represented, but, as a rule, a deep, friable loam, and would be easily worked if it were not for a vast number of boulders and stones that lie on the surface. These with the soil have been laid down by an immense glacier which must have flowed from north-east to south-west, judging from the lie of the boulders and the striated markings on their exposed faces. The land is thus quite unsuited for agricultural purposes, unless when the stones are removed, which operation often costs about £3 per acre. Compton Township is probably the best now under discussion, being more free from stones than others. The townships, however, present many advantages for grazing. Pasture improves by lying and does not get burnt up in dry weather, or "run out," as in many parts of Ontario. Red as well as white clover springs spontaneously upon newly-cleared land if pastured.

DAIRY FARMING.

Dairy farming is gone in for pretty extensively, adopting the factory system of cheese-making. The factories charge from 1½ to 2 cents per pound for the work of manufacturing, and some take one-tenth of the price, whatever that may be. Many of the factories have been closed on account of the low price of cheese; the net cost to produce it in this district may be set at 7 cents per lb., while in Ontario it pays better to grow grain than keep cows, with cheese at 9c. per lb. (One cent. may be reckoned as equal to halfpenny of our money). The native cows bred with a mixture of various strains from the old French cow, are hardy, of a small size, with good milking points, yield without artificial food from 250 to 300 lbs. of cheese in the summer six months, independent of the Sunday's milk. A cross with a Durham throws an animal well adapted for fattening purposes.

SELLING LAND.

Average land, pretty well cleared of stones and stumps, may be had for £5 an acre, with a moderate frame house and barns. I was startled at the numbers all over desirous to sell through being hard up for cash. This was said to be explained by the extravagant habits contracted when trade was good. No doubt that had something to do with it, but there is another conspicuous reason, viz., the policy of some of the earlier governments that gave to private individuals and English Land Companies grants of land to settle, which they did, charging a large premium for their trouble, and at the same time an enormous interest on the price, which could never be paid by the natural yield of the land, but was guaranteed by the rise in value of property, as the district was cleared and settled. Many men, too, possessed of a little of the restless disposition of our American cousins, and who enjoy a pioneer life, desire to sell and go to the Canadian North-West in the hope of improving their fortunes.

ONTARIO

In Ontario I visited the districts around Cobourg, Campbellford (Seymore), Toronto, London, Sarnia, Harrisburg, Port Elgin, Owen Sound, Guelph, Georgetown and Niagara. Here the land has been reclaimed as in the Eastern Townships from

the primeval forests, perhaps by the fathers or grandfathers of the men who now inhabit the numerous handsome brick erections that may be seen studded all over the face of the country.

HOUSES.

Houses may be described as in three classes. First, the little log hut or "shanty," simply made of axe-squared logs of wood, laid upon each other, and notched at the ends to keep them steady; roofed in the rudest style, and the seams daubed with clay, is warm and comfortable, and all that the simple woodsman wants; but as he improves in fortune this must give place to a more airy and stately edifice—a "frame house"—constructed of uprights, covered on the outside with a double lining of boards, having between them a layer of tar-paper, and plastered within. The third style is more like that of houses in this country, and being substantial and more costly, is only adopted by those who are well off. The walls are built of bricks, usually made on the farm from bands of clay often found running through the sub-soil. Slates are seldom used, but the roofs of frame and brick houses are covered with "shingles," little thin pieces of wood (cedar is best, but often pine is used), sawn about the size of a slate, and put on in the same fashion. Houses are heated in several ways, and are often kept very much too hot either for comfort when within or safety on going out. The stove is the oldest and perhaps the most usual plan, burning wood or, more recently, one burning anthracite coal, and self-feeding. The amount of coal sufficient for the day is put in at the top in the morning, and matters are arranged so that it slips down and supplies the fuel as required. They are much more cheerful than the old kind, owing to the fire being seen through the thin plates of mica on their sides. Our coal would not do for these, as it would burn too fast, being soft. The next most general is by heated air carried in tin pipes built into the walls, from a furnace, usually in the lower regions; but the cheapest and best way of all, where practicable, as in cities, is by steam generated at one large centre, and transmitted through pipes in all directions, supplying each house as wanted.

CLIMATE AND CROPS.

Unfortunately for Ontario, the indiscriminate hewing down of timber has in some districts injured the climate, and now and then a summer comes which dries up the pasture, so that cattle have to be fed on hay. The want of shelter, too, from the prevailing winds, sometimes ends in the destruction of the fall wheat, if by any chance snow does not cover the ground sufficiently. Fall wheat has been a success for some years, and as its yield is a quarter more than spring-sown wheat in a good year, a very large extent is sown both in Ontario and the States this season. I saw fall wheat two feet high in the beginning of November; it, of course, had been neglected, and should have been cut or eaten down by calves or young cattle. The style of farming is very often poor, accounted for, perhaps, by the fact that many of the original settlers had been brought up to professions or trades. Only rarely do you find any approved system of rotation of crops adopted, or either farm-yard or artificial manures applied. I need not explain to a meeting of farmers what the effects of growing wheat after wheat on even the finest virgin soil without manure will be in the course of a generation. The land is of various qualities and descriptions, but generally good. The best wheat land is a deep friable loam containing a large proportion of lime from the carboniferous limestones of the Silurian and Laurentian, which abound to a large extent on the North American Continent, and are much more easily worked than in the wheat-growing regions of the London and plastic clays of the south of England. The yield of spring wheat may be set down at from 15 to 18 bushels per acre, and fall wheat 20 to 24 bushels; while Mr. Gladstone puts the average yield of England, manured and worked as it is, at a little over 25 to 27 bushels per acre. Barley will perhaps yield 35 bushels, and oats a little over that. The quantity of seed required to sow an acre is very small—fall wheat, $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{4}$ bushels; spring wheat about $\frac{1}{2}$ bushel more, barley, 2 bushels; and oats, 2

to 2½ bushels. Timothy grass is the one universally adopted in sowing out for pasture or hay, and $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a bushel, along with 2 to 4 lbs. of cow grass clover seed, is sufficient per acre. Of late years timothy from some cause has not done so well; and "orchard grass," which is the same as our cocksfoot, *Dactylis glomerata*, has been mixed with good effect, giving a closer and better pasture. 2 to 3 tons per acre of timothy hay are often got on good land at one cutting, while five tons are not uncommon on well-farmed land when the season will admit of two cuttings. This gives a fair return at four dollars per ton, having cost a little over one dollar to secure it. Swedish turnips do well. The climate is as well suited to their growth as in Scotland, with the exception of these dry years, and the land is better and has been less cropped by them. They are not as yet extensively cultivated. Potatoes are good, except in wet seasons, when they are liable to the same fungoid disease we have in this country. The ravages of the potatoe bug, or Colorado beetle, were at one time most serious, but it has been found that 1 lb. of Paris green mixed with 100 lbs. of plaster of Paris, and sown on each acre, perhaps twice, is an effectual cure. Some who are afraid of the effect of the poison on the crop have the leaves hand picked, but this is a most expensive operation. Great care has to be taken not to bruise the beetle or allow the juice to get into the eye or any tender part, as it is highly irritating and causes swelling. It has been noticed that they do not remain in one district more than three years in numbers sufficient to cause alarm. Large quantities of potatoes have been bought this fall for shipment to Great Britain.

TAXES AND SCHOOLS.

All taxes, including school rates, are levied upon gross value, not upon yearly rental, and may be averaged at from 6d. to 1s. per acre annually. The school system is most perfect. First, there are "public free schools," taught by certificated teachers, within easy range of all parts of the country, the site in each school district being determined by the vote of the majority of residents. I had a good opportunity in Port Elgin of seeing the excellent way the work is done, under able management. In these all the elements of a good education are taught. Next came the more advanced "high schools," where the sciences and languages are gone deeper into. And finally, I may mention the "collegiate institutions," which correspond with our colleges.

WAGES—DRINKING.

The wages of men are not much higher than in this country. A good man will get 15 dollars a month in summer time, and 12 dollars in winter—about £33 a year, with board. It is a pretty general custom that those living under the same roof should eat at the same table, and all live well. Butcher-meat with potatoes is served up three times a day. Men working prefer salt pork. Drinking does not seem to be carried to such excess as in this country—at least you very rarely see anyone the worse for liquor. All accounts agree that when a man does give way to it his end is not far distant. The climate seems not at all suited to intemperance, and perhaps the quality of the drink has also something to do with it.

INTEREST ON MONEY.

Nothing strikes a stranger in the country more than the high rate of interest that can be got for money lent on the best landed security. In Ontario and Quebec the lowest is from 8 to 10 per cent.; while in the North-West, at the active point of new settlement, 12 per cent. is the least, and I have heard of 20 per cent. No legitimate business of any kind can ever succeed if the capital employed has to be paid for at these rates—a speculative business may, but it is as likely to fail. I have seen nothing to lead me to believe that more than 10 per cent. can be made off "farming proper," unless on a very large scale. A holding may, and usually does, rise in value as the district round becomes peopled; but this is land speculation, not

farming, and goes a great way to explain how we find many of the Ontario farmers in comfortable houses and comparatively wealthy who began in a back settlement with nothing.

FENCES.

The "snake-fence" is the one first adopted in a new country where wood abounds. It is made of poles, 12 or 14 feet long, split out of cedar generally, and built in such a fashion, one above another, alternating and zig-zag, at angles sufficient to make it self supporting. Good cedar in a fence will last for 50 or 60 years. Usually two upright stakes are introduced at each joining to give strength. It is easily put up, and is only used where wood is plentiful and of little value. As the country is cleared it is gradually replaced by a "board fence." Board fences are constructed like our palings, but are usually higher, and instead of spars, boards are used. They are not found to be suitable along roads or railways, as these become filled with snow from the shelter afforded, and in cases of this kind barbed, galvanized steel-wire fences are adopted, and already there are thousands of miles of them along some of the American railroads. The last and most improved form is two wires twined round each other, with two little pieces of a smaller wire most ingeniously twisted into them, and terminating in four sharp spikes about half an inch long, projecting each in a different direction round the wire, the sets of four about six inches apart. This wire would suit splendidly for the two top wires of the light sheep fences often put up in this country, as they would be a perfect guarantee for its safety against cattle. One wire is sufficient to turn them, and the price is about 4½ pence for 18 feet. John Taylor & Brother, 16 St. John's Street, Montreal, are the agents for it.

ROADS.

All the heavy carriage of grain and goods is done in winter by sleigh, when snow covers the ground usually for four or five months, and offers an easy means of transit. It is fortunate for Canada that she has this natural advantage, as "bad" is no word to express the condition of the roads whenever rain falls. There is no attempt at metaling or making, except in a very few districts and near cities. Road rates are paid by labour, and the system works badly.

SHEEP.

Speaking generally, I may say the breeding of sheep in Canada has been a failure as compared with this country, simply through the want of knowledge of their management. You go into a butcher's shop and you find nothing but beef or pork hanging, while with us pork is seldom seen, and beef only in towns. The climate is well suited to sheep, and there are men who have succeeded with them, and made a good thing of it. Mr. James Hewetson, who had a farm of 550 acres, 350 acres cleared, at Owen Sound, County Bruce, seemed to have been more successful than any other I came across. The grass in this district does not burn up in summer, and pasture improves with lying out. Mr. Hewetson kept a "running" stock of 350 pure bred Border Leicester ewes, besides ploughing one-third of his cleared land. His sales during twelve years never fell under 5 dollars (£1) per head all over, and sometimes as high as 7 dollars. Hogs clipped about 10 lbs. and owes 7 lbs. of unwashed wool. The sheep were kept under cover during winter in places constructed for them under the grain barns, with the most perfect, convenient arrangements, for feeding with chaffed straw, hay, grain, and a few turnips. The whole cost of wintering may be set down at \$2 (8s.), but this of course was supplied by the farm. This gentleman, on selling out three years ago, at \$36 (£7 10s.) per acre, with fair house, splendid barns, and good fences, had for twelve years previously an average of 10 per cent. per annum for capital invested, besides the expense of living, which was not extravagant. This may be taken as a fair sample of what may be done with skill, perseverance, and sufficient capital on

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an Ontario farm. Sheep are subject to no disease of any consequence. "Fluke in the liver," otherwise called "rot," is unknown. In some districts "grub in the head" is troublesome. This is the larvæ of an insect which got into the nostrils off the grass when the sheep are feeding, and do the damage simply through creating an irritation. I saw some flocks of sheep with the nostrils and half the face covered with coal-tar as a preventative. Sheep in good condition are subject to a disease, often mistaken for "grub," caused by pressure of blood on the brain. This is easily relieved, if taken in time, by profuse bleeding at the eyes. There is another loss that a farmer has if he turns his sheep into an uncleared bush. A kind of burr sticks to the wool and mats it together, reducing its market value. One species of this native herbage, at a certain season, when dry and hard, fixes itself in the wool, and, reaching the skin, so irritates it as the sheep moves that a fever is set up of which the animal dies. These latter are, however, no drawbacks to a man with a fenced farm kept clear of weeds. The best breed of sheep for Canada, in my opinion, is the Shropshire Down. Then you have a sheep which has weight enough for the English market, and at the same time mutton of good quality, well mixed fat and lean; whereas, in the common breed, a mixture of Cotswolds, Border Leicesters, and Merinos, the mutton, to be large enough, is too coarse and fat for the English taste. Last season it cost about 8s. each to bring fat sheep from Quebec to Liverpool.

CATTLE.

The native breeds of cattle in Canada are good compared with those of some of the Western States of America.

The "Maine" breed has a marked character, which can be easily traced in many Canadian stocks. The shoulders are high and sharp, the back descending backwards with a hollow over the kidneys; head well set on, with large elegant horns. Many of the steers are used for work in place of horses. If good, a yoke will cost from \$120 to \$200. They are often of large size, and make excellent slaves. It is not known what was the origin of this breed, but it is possible there may be a dash of buffalo in the blood. In addition to the conformation of the shoulder, which might lead anyone to suppose so, it is a strange fact that two out of three of the half-buffaloes which I saw in a park at the late Hon. James MacKay's place, near Winnipeg, were brindled brown and black, the mothers being native cattle, most probably imported from the Western States, the one black and the other red, and many of the Maine breed are brindled brown and black in the same way. These half-buffaloes take more after the dam than the sire, and resemble much a badly bred West Highland bullock, with high shoulders, long face, and upright horns, set close at the root. There were also eight or nine pure buffaloes, mostly cows, that had been caught young, kept in the same park (two miles long by half a mile broad). They seemed all quiet, except two that had chains to their noses, and moved about just like other cattle, with a little peculiarity in their gate. They were smaller in size than when running wild.

The little French cow, the same breed from which the Channel Islands stock came, has left her mark, more particularly in those districts where milking is wanted; while shorthorns and "grades" (crosses of the shorthorn with native cattle) are more sought after where fattening is wanted. I saw two herds of pure-bred shorthorns at Mr. Cochrane's, Compton, Quebec, and Bow Park Farm, Ontario; the latter now farmed by an English company, had much the larger of the two. These herds have already done much to improve the breed. I came across very few "Herefords," and no "Polled-Anguses." These two latter breeds would suit Canada admirably; the beef is of the very best quality, and heavy enough for any market. There is no reason why beef should not be as good raised on the other side of the Atlantic as on this, if a good class of animals is fed, and with good food. Beef from the bones of an ox that had been the faithful drudge of some backwood settler for, perhaps, six or eight years, cannot be expected to be so fine as that from the loin of one of our two-year-old heifers; but it is not because it was raised in Canada or America that it is

worse, but because of the different conditions under which it was produced, and on the care which has been expended on the selection of the progenitors of the animal. I am confident it is simply a matter of time when Canada and America will produce beef of as good quality as is now fed in England, and at a cost and in quantity which will astonish alike the farmer and consumer in this country. In Colorado beef can be produced at a cost of 1d. per lb., live weight, but from a breed of animals, as also in Montana and some other of these Western States, that cannot appear in the English market except in tinned meat cans. Where Indian corn is abundant, cattle can be made excellent "fat," and it only requires a little improvement in the breed to have the finest beef at a cost of \$2.50 per 100 lbs. live weight, or 2d. per lb. over the dead carcass. This is done by combining the feeding of pigs and cattle together. Indian corn is fed to the cattle, and two hogs are run behind each animal, and live entirely on what they pick up from the droppings. The improvement on the two hogs is calculated to be about equal in value to the improvement on each of the cattle. This of course depends upon all lucking well; the feeding of hogs is a very risky trade. Cholera frequently comes round and carries off a whole herd, if allowed to remain in the same place after being attacked. Perhaps the mode of feeding is not the best to prevent the disease.

HORSES.

Draught horses throughout Canada, including Manitoba, are of a light build compared with what we are accustomed to in this country—more like the style of our coaching horses. A cross between the Clyde stallion and native mare does well; a little more strength is gained, while the activity, style, and endurance of the dam is retained. Good horses are worth about £30. Clyde horses, such as we see at our shows, would be quite unsuited to Canada. Horses are entirely free of contagious diseases. Some die of exposure, and I am surprised many more do not, from the careless way they are often tied outside for hours on cold frosty days, after being heated. The common roadsters of the country are, as a rule, faster than those on this side, and are remarkably sure-footed. In Manitoba many of the horses imported from Ontario die after a gradual pining away. It seems to be only a small constitutional disarrangement, brought about by a change of climate and food, and might be easily remedied if taken in time; two drachms of sulphate of iron (green vitriol) very finely powdered, the water of crystallization having been driven off by heat, given once a day in short feed, would in a few weeks have the desired effect.

MANITOBA—GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

Winnipeg, now the Capital of Manitoba, known of old as Fort Garry, one of the Hudson Bay Company's stations, stands on the west bank of the Red River at its junction with the Assiniboine. Although almost in the centre of the continent of North America, the elevation above sea level is only 720 feet. The district surrounding is low and inclined to be swampy—this difficulty, however, might be very easily overcome by drainage. "Thorough" drainage would be quite unnecessary, as it is only surface water that has to be contended with, which falls in June, and would soon disappear if "arterial" mains, judiciously laid on, tapped the country in various directions. The Red River, which flows within very steep banks, would afford an outlet with sufficient fall. About 50 miles west of Winnipeg the land gradually rises and becomes drier, and away to the Rocky Mountains, a distance of nearly a thousand miles, stretches that immense undulating prairie now called the North-West Territory. A portion of the great North American Desert juts north of the Intercolonial Boundary Line into this country, but, as a rule, the soil is of good quality. The surveyors, now at work on these plains, estimate that at this time there are at least 300 millions of acres of the very finest wheat land that requires no preparation whatever before the plough is put in, and only waits for an industrious population to call forth its fertility. This region is not entirely destitute

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of trees, although there are large patches swept by prairie fires, where nothing like useful wood of any kind is allowed to grow. In the vicinity of rivers, oaks of considerable size are found, while other districts are studded with "bluffs" of white poplar, useful only for burning. Further north, pines come in. Good water can generally be got by sinking wells, or from the "creeks;" but there are districts where nothing but bad sulphurous or alkali waters can be found by sinking any practicable distance—these should be avoided by settlers, and it is easy to find out, by a little study of the surveyors' "field notes," both the quality and description of the land, its water supply, and the amount of timber. The soil is of uncommon appearance and qualities, and, from its mechanical properties and chemical analysis, is admirably suited for the growth of all our common agricultural crops. According to analysis by V. Emmerling, potash, phosphoric acid, and lime are in unusually large quantities, while the amount of nitrogen is extraordinary, being equal to over one-half per cent. of ammonia, or more than is in many of our manures sold at £2 and £3 per ton. It has a black appearance, and may be called a vegetable loam. It covers the surface to a depth of from 6 inches to 2½ feet, but in some places is even so deep as 7 or 8 feet. It has evidently been laid down at the bottom of an immense lake, probably of fresh water, which would at one time have submerged all this immense tract of country. The subsoil is of great depth, and I have no doubt would prove an excellent soil if it were possible to cultivate it. It is a clay marl, eroded from the underlying cretaceous rocks, and is very tenacious when filled with moisture, porous enough, however, to allow water in moderate quantities to percolate freely.

SURVEY OF LAND.

Manitoba is surveyed into "townships" of six miles square, and these again into 36 "sections" of a square mile each. A mound is thrown up at each corner, and a stake left, with markings showing its exact position. The townships are numbered north, from the first survey base-line, which is also the boundary with the United States, on the 40th degree of north latitude. The first principal meridian line, which has been fixed, cuts a point 15 miles west of Winnipeg, and is taken as the starting point for the second measurement necessary to determine a location, and the "ranges" numbered east and west from it. The "sections" are numbered beginning at the south-east corner of the township, running west, and then east, when you come to the second row, which lies north of the first, and so on alternately throughout. It is thus an easy matter with the number of the township, range, east or west, and section, to find any part which has been surveyed, either on a map or on the ground. The Government propose to construct a line of railway, the "Canada Pacific," which will extend, when completed, from Ottawa, the Capital, right through the entire continent of British Columbia. It passes south of Lake Manitoba, running due east and west, but bending slightly north after entering the North-West Territory. The land is further divided into five belts, running parallel with the proposed railway on either side, and are styled (beginning at the line) belts A, B, C, D, E, and are 5, 15, 20 and 50 miles broad respectively. Two sections of every township, the 8th and 26th, belong to the Hudson Bay Company, allowed them as part recompense for giving up their right to a monopoly of the whole of this North-West country for hunting purposes, held in virtue of a charter granted by the British Government some hundreds of years ago. Numbers 11 and 29 are "school sections," set aside to be sold to defray school expenses. Of the other sections in each township the odd-numbered half is sold to anyone—the money got being applied to the "building" of the Canada Pacific Railway. The price is fixed by Act of Parliament, \$5 for belt A, and \$1 less for each belt as you go back from the railway. One-tenth is payable every year for ten years, also interest at the rate of 6 per cent. on the part unpaid. The even numbered sections are given by Government, in "homesteads" of 160 acres, to actual settlers, free, or for the nominal sum of \$10, with right to secure another 160 acres, called a pre-emption. In belt A, B, or C; the price of the latter is \$2½ per acre, belt D \$1, and belt E \$1. No payment is asked till the end of three years, then four-tenths and the

interest on the remaining six-tenths is due, one-tenth with interest yearly being paid for the following six years. There can thus be two settlers on each section of the homestead and pre-emption land, holding 320 acres each. The system of land registration is most perfect, and very simple. The expense of the transfer of land is next to nothing.

WHEAT GROWING.

The advantages for wheat growing which Manitoba and the adjoining portions of the great North-West Province have are peculiar. Frost may be expected, varying with the season, in the end of October or beginning of November—not as a rule disappearing until spring—while snow, at least in any quantity, is never expected till after the new year. This arrangement admits of the frost penetrating deeply into the earth, so much as five, or even seven, feet. When spring arrives, and when only a few inches of the top soil are thawed (in April), the ploughing of course having been done in the previous fall, the seed is put in the ground. The heat succeeding stimulates the growth of the young plant, and at the same time thaws a portion of the frost-bound earth underneath, forming the fountain of a steady supply of moisture, ascending by capillary attraction. The crop is thus kept in a healthy and improving condition until the periodically wet season sets in, in June—then there is no lack of water for man, beast, or vegetation. The country, where low lying, is deluged, and the roads become almost impassable. It is then that the Red River mud holds sway and imprints its memory on the minds of all those unlucky enough to be bound to try their fortune on its treacherous surface. Still it is surprising that spring is the season often recommended for immigration, the time above all others which one who has the least regard for comfort would avoid. An average settler, I mean a man who had to travel the average distance of a settler, in those prairie lands, as yet in a sense without railways, could not reach his new home, and have a house ready, in time to withstand the rains, which come without fail at this season.

WORK ON THE PRAIRIE—SPRING PLOUGHING.

It is in June and July that the prairie turf should be broken for the first time, when the rains have softened the earth and filled the strong roots of grass with sap, allowing of the easy passage of the plough. This operation, called "skinning," is done with the light Canadian plough, constructed of wood with iron on the surfaces liable to wear, or by the "sulky" plough, on which the man in charge rides and simply drives the horses. This latter requires, of course, more skill and less manual labour than the first, and is gradually being adopted. About two inches is the proper depth for the first furrow; the grass roots seem then to be cut at a part which kills the plant, and the sods rot and fall to pieces. The furrow is usually from 12 to 15 inches wide, and a man with a team of active horses, and the ordinary plough, will turn over more than two acres a day. Oxen will not plough quite so much as horses, but very nearly; everything taken into consideration, they are better suited to prairie work. They cost less to buy and less to feed, not requiring oats, and are hardier, and for a heavy pull or bad roads are much steadier and truer. The land becomes too dry and hard to admit of ploughing in summer.

HAY MAKING.

Securing the "prairie hay" is the next extensive operation. This is made from the various grasses natural to and peculiar to the prairie, and is coarse and strong, generally got from damp places left so by the want of roll of the land, or where water has been retained by an artificial dam. Two to three tons per acre are often got, and the season being usually fine, hay making is an easy matter. It is cut by mowing machines, the same that we see sent over to this country, and only requires to lie one day before being put together. It is then raked and drawn into heaps by horses, and little work is necessary in building, as no rain need be feared after this season,

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only perhaps an occasional thunder shower. A man and a boy, with the necessary horses, can secure in this way 100 tons of hay in the season before harvest is ready — (the decimal system of weights and measures being adopted in Canada, 1 cwt. is only 100 lbs., and a ton 20 of these). To let hay-winning by contract costs from \$1 to \$1.25 per ton.

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I saw a sample of wheat which had been sown on 25th May and harvested on 26th August, 1879. But this is an unusually short time—the seed should be in the ground, if possible, in April, and harvest becomes general in September. The number of hands employed at one reaper is not more than half the usual number considered sufficient in this country. The self-binders, much improved of late years, are highly appreciated on account of the immense saving of hand labour—this is what Canadians and Americans alike have an eye to, and is the fruitful source of the many mechanical inventions which we, in due course, adopt and appreciate.

FALL PLOUGHING.

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Immediately on the harvest being secured, no time should be lost in ploughing the land and preparing for next year's crop—the land that was broken in June and July is now "back set," viz., the furrow turned back into its original position, but taken deeper than before, this time 5 inches in place of two inches, and left for the action of the winter's frost, which sets in often before the farmer has all he could have wished done, even although he lose no time. Many farmers, regardless of the ruinous consequences, leave their ploughing and thrash out their grain immediately after harvest, and find themselves when frost sets in with little or nothing to do. It is clear that when only two months are suitable for ploughing in spring, and often less than that in the fall, it must be a loss to do work in these seasons that could stand over to another time, the cost of skinning and back-setting, when let by contract, is about \$5 per acre. I saw in the direction of Rock Lake wheat that had been grown to the amount of 40 bushels to the acre on the first brake of two inches deep. The land could not be conveniently turned over in June, and the skinning was done in the fall. All that is necessary to secure the crop after this is rain in time. Should the wet season come late, then a crop put in thus is a failure; however, it is well to try; the expense of sowing is not great.

SOWING AND SEED.

This operation is done by the broad-casting machine, which will sow 12 to 15 acres per day; and only $1\frac{1}{2}$ bushels wheat, or $1\frac{1}{2}$ oats, are necessary per acre. The species usually grown is a small, hard variety of the common wheat, and the quality such that it commands the highest price for manufacture into fine white flour. No statistical return of the extent of land under wheat, or amount grown per acre, has yet been got. I have seen it averaged at 20 bushels per acre, while on fields properly prepared, with land of good quality, over 40 bushels is no unusual quantity; and oats up to 90 and 100 bushels. The standard for wheat is 60 lbs., and oats 34 lbs. per bushel. Oats do not fill so well in any part of Canada as in our own country—the heat seems to be too great just at the time the ear is filling, rushing on the ripening before time has been allowed for the perfecting of the head.

NATURE OF THE WHEAT PLANT.

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With wheat it is different. This plant requires a certain amount of sunlight and heat, and if it can get this crowded into a short space of time by having a long day with a hot sun, so much the better. Meteorologists have shown, principally from this fact, that "in the zone or belt which supplies the necessary conditions for the growth of wheat, the part best suited for the perfect growth of the crop is its northern

limits." In this, as well as in the almost unequalled soil, quantitatively, mechanically, and analytically do we find the reason why the finger of the future points to these 300 millions of fertile acres contained within the great Canadian North-West as the field which is to supply the world with bread.

ENEMIES OF WHEAT.

Here the worst enemy of wheat is the grasshopper or locust, which is described as descending in clouds of countless millions upon a district and devouring every green thing. Within no distant date, Manitoba has been thrice visited by this pest, some years elapsing between each visitation. As the country becomes settled up, and a wider extent under cultivation, the destruction becomes not so wholesale; and many intelligent settlers are confident they will disappear in presence of the white man, as do the red Indian and buffalo. The wheat crop after harvest, in common with all other property on a farm, is liable to be destroyed by prairie fires. These get lighted, usually by carelessness, in the fall, after frost has withered the grass, and will burn quietly enough if no wind blows, but with wind, which is quite common at the season, will burst into flames of enormous dimensions, and sweep everything before them for hundreds of miles, travelling often at a speed of from 20 to 30 miles an hour. A man may effectually guard his whole property by ploughing round it a couple of ridges, 30 or 40 yards apart, and burning the grass between, when the wind is down. Through neglect of this little precaution over 40 families were burnt out of everything along the Red River, south of Winnipeg, last year. "Smut" is known, but can be prevented by steeping the seed as in England. In Ontario, I heard of a "rust," so far as I could learn, peculiar to this province—not general nor yearly, but due to an exceptional state of some seasons. The condition of matters is brought about by an unnatural second growth, corresponding to that we have sometimes among potatoes, just when the ear is in the milk. Too much juice rushes up, and exudes near the top of the stalk, where the straw splits. The sap exposed immediately becomes the prey of fungi, and the crop is then an entire failure. Prairie land, when first broken, is entirely free from weeds, but from the dirty samples of grain I have seen, it is evident sufficient care has not been taken in selecting clean seed.

FUEL.

During frost all cutting and hauling of timber, to build houses or make firewood, is done while the weather is calm. If wind blows with the temperature below 0° F., all agree it is safer to remain at home. In addition to timber, prairie hay is now used for fuel—quite recently a stove has been constructed for burning it, made up in tight bundles; also, within a few months, coal has been found on the Souris River, close to the surface. It was known to exist in the Saskatchewan Valley, farther north, before, and it is estimated there is as much coal in these districts as there is in the United Kingdom of Great Britain.

EMIGRANTS.

Then, as to the class of men who should go out to Her Majesty's North American possessions, I should say, in the first place, if a man is getting on at home, and sees his way to continue to improve his fortune, let him remain where he is, "and let well alone;" but if he cannot succeed, and is again starting, as it were, at the foot of the ladder, by all means go, if he makes up his mind to rough it, and is possessed of energy and perseverance, and is not lazy or drunken; all these qualities are positively necessary for one going to a new country. A shiftless individual is of no use, and a lazy man is not a bit better, for whatever style of farming one adopts, be it a homestead of 160 acres, where all the work is done by the farmer himself, or a large wheat farm of some thousands of acres, personal presence and constant superintendence is necessary to insure success, and to transfer the balance from the wrong to the right side of the cash-book. A man past the prime of life should not think of going, at

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least for his own comfort—if he has determined to sacrifice himself for the sake of his family, it is quite a different matter. It is a mistake for anyone to go and buy a farm, or settle himself, without first living a year at least in the country, to get into the ways of the people, and gain the necessary experience to get along with, in place of paying for it as he goes on. It is said that bought experience is the best, but even bought experience may be too dear. There is no opening for clerks or men of letters, unless they turn to and hold the plough, and it is better for the settler himself, more especially after a time, if he has been accustomed in youth to work on a farm. Different parts of the country are suited to different classes of settlers. A man with a few thousand pounds may find a comfortable home in many districts of Ontario, and be possessor, if this is what he wants, of the property which he farms for £6 to £8 or £10 per acre. Land in Ontario has come down in price one-third within a few years, and I don't see any reason why it may not come down further, now that such a vast extent of fine land as in the North-West is becoming known to the public. Land must be like every other marketable commodity; where there is an additional supply at a lower rate with the same demand, the price must fall towards equalization. I don't mean to say that every man in Ontario who would sell would take one-third less for his land, but I speak of sheriff sales, where the property is put up for public competition, which is the only true way of judging of the value. Of all those things, however, a man about to settle in Ontario must judge for himself. A limited number of men with means might also find suitable places, with land at a lower rate, in some districts of the Eastern Townships. Men buying land in these districts meaning to take life easy need not expect to make fortunes, but with a judicious selection of places would have comfortable houses and a way of living. Those who have little money, or no money, must make up their minds to have a rough time of it for a few years, and will require to go to the extreme point of New Settlement, now in Manitoba and the North-West Territory. A man with £200 is, in a sense, independent, having enough, if he takes up a homestead, until he gets some return from the land—but a man who goes to that country without money has a hard struggle—he must first engage with some one until he earns a little money, and while doing so he is also gaining in experience. Very much less than £200, with great care and a little pinching, will keep him going without falling into the hands of the money-lenders, who, above all other dangers, he has to fear and avoid. I have already explained that 12 per cent. is the lowest rate at which money can be got, but a man of this class has to pay more, as he cannot give the best security. The homestead law secures to him, against any creditor, his house, 160 acres of land, and a certain amount of stock; this, although it is an advantage to him in some ways, is a disadvantage when he goes into the money market to borrow. For the purpose of giving this class a fair start, and money just sufficient for their requirements at a rate of interest which they might make of their industry, I suggested to the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, that it would be an advantage to many settlers, and consequently to the country, if the Canadian Government would raise a loan, at the moderate rate their credit would command, and charging a little for working expenses, lend it to *bond fide* settlers at say five or six per cent., the Government, of course, holding the deeds of the land until the money was repaid. Mr. Pope, no doubt aware of the difficulties which I admit would attend the working of a scheme of the kind, thought this was better done by private enterprise, as by a company in England, and if it were found necessary the law could be altered so that the borrower might be enabled to grant security to a greater extent over his property than at present. Unfortunately for this arrangement, the people in question are not in a position to act in unison, and any company that would form would have its own interests before theirs, which means the largest return possible for the money; and besides, no individual security, however good, will command, so far away and unknown, a low rate of interest as in England. If any means can be adopted, it does not matter what, whereby this class of settlers could get the positively necessary assistance at a moderate rate, and prevent them paying 15 or even 20 per cent. for what they can only make 10 per cent. off (the rest being made up by the rise in the value of property), it would be a great boon to the

class of men that up to this time has proved the best suited to the country. If it had not been for those who shouldered the axe, and that often a borrowed one, and went alone into the forest, many of the most fertile fields of Canada would have been at this day a howling wilderness or a backwood swamp. It is plain that a man with money has a great advantage, and the larger holding, if he goes in for wheat-growing, the more proportionally will he make. It would appear at first, from the system of laying out the land, that large holdings could not be got; but this difficulty is easily overcome. For young men of capital who do not care for the drudgery of an arable farm, and who would be contented with the Red Indians (now quite peaceable under Canadian rule) for his neighbours, with a call occasionally from Her Majesty's Mounted Police, good openings for taking up land for cattle-grazing can be had near to the Rocky Mountains. The rent payable to the Government would be merely nominal, and the lease would entitle the holder to the first refusal to purchase by the time it was wanted for settlement. There the snows are not so heavy, or winters severe; the cattle would not winter out, owing to the milder climate, due to its proximity to the Pacific. Sheep would do well enough, too, if it were not for the wild beasts of prey on the mountains. There is less snow than in Manitoba, and even there the depth does not average often more than a foot; and had it not been for the unfortunate circumstance that cattle will not scrape for their food if covered up by snow, as horses and sheep do, it is quite generally believed that they could winter out. The prairie grass, which becomes withered and worthless-looking with the frost, does not get the sap and soluble salts washed out of it by rain, like grass in this country, but retains a large proportion of its nourishing properties, as hay does. This explains why the native Indian ponies, turned out in the fall and never seen all winter, come back in spring fat.

TEMPERATURE.

It is thought that Manitoba and the North-West, being so far north, must be cold; but if you look at a chart, showing the distribution of temperature on the earth's surface, you will find that in this district of country the Isothermal lines run very far north, while those marking the mean summer temperature go much higher.

WHEAT FROM MANITOBA

Within three years, when that branch of the Canada Pacific Railway is finished which runs to Fort William, on Lake Superior, from Winnipeg, wheat can be grown in Manitoba and sent to Liverpool at a net cost of 26s. per quarter—3s. 3d. per bushel. This at first looks a startling statement to the British farmer, who is aware that wheat cannot be grown in England at much less than 50s. per quarter at the present rate of rents, labour and manure bills, all equally important factors in his calculations, especially when he considers the amount of land ready to be cultivated and the large average yield of 40 bushels per acre, which is expected if fall wheat proves a success. (I have here a sample of spring wheat grown for thirteen consecutive years on the same ground without manure, and the crop averaged 30 bushels per acre.) He should bear in mind that a considerable time must elapse before settlers find their way in sufficient numbers to grow wheat in quantity to affect the English market after supplying home demand for seed and consumption in the new cities which will spring up. From this cause the change in the price of wheat will not be sudden but gradual—ten years must elapse, and it may be twenty, before we feel it. Last year, in the Dufferin district, there were about 400,000 acres taken up by settlers, and this was the largest extent taken up in one place; but supposing that three millions of acres were allotted altogether in one year, it would take 100 years to settle up the North-West at the same rate. Until the Canada Pacific Railway is completed through to Ottawa, one thing that will add to the above quoted price of the larger bulk of wheat grown is the storage fee and interest on capital invested in the storing over winter. I have already explained the bad consequences of farmers

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losing the time for ploughing by threshing before frost sets in, and after this time nothing can be shipped by Hudson's Bay till spring, and not much by Lake Superior, so that the greater part of the crop of one year must lie over until after the breaking up of the ice in the one succeeding. Much is said about this proposed route by Hudson's Bay, but I am afraid it is not much to be depended upon; it can only be open four months in the year.

RECIPROCITY V. FREE TRADE.

The people of Canada, having at last found out that a system of one-sided free trade is a delusion and a snare, put in a Government pledged to adopt what is called the "national policy," which is simply this: they want free trade on equal terms, but if other countries will not grant it, they must put on a tariff. England and America are the countries that trade most largely with Canada, and the American tariff demands that something must be done. It would be impossible to give England free trade and put a duty on American goods, while her ports were open to those same goods free, consequently a tariff has to be adopted all round. Should England adopt a policy of "reciprocity," which she will have to do sooner or later, and the sooner the better for herself, she would at once get free trade with Canada. So anxious is the Canadian Government that there should be no difficulty or delay about this, they have it arranged that an Order in Council is sufficient to grant it. It would never do for England to go back to "protection" for protection's sake, but the time is not far distant when she will have to employ protection, as it is called, as the power whereby to bring about a general free trade, which we all so much long for. The one-sided plan has got a fair trial, and so far as we are concerned, powerful as we are, has miserably failed. Our opponents, the Americans, who took the other way of it, were the last to succumb when bad times came, and are now the first to take the lead on the advent of better things. Upwards of 40 million pounds worth of manufactured goods are imported into Great Britain in a year, and in spite of the reduced price through depression of trade, the increase has been over 20 per cent. within the last ten year. These must consist either of luxuries or goods which could be manufactured at home. Suppose half the value due to the work expended, and that our workmen had done it, the country would have been 20 millions richer in one year, and thousands of families that are this day starving would have an abundance. We must have grain stuffs free, but Great Britain should impose a heavy duty upon manufactured goods and live cattle from every country that will not give us free trade; then she would be in a position to say to our neighbours of the United States—and it is they who so obligingly manufacture most for us—"As soon as you give us free trade, we shall return the compliment." The movements already made with regard to Canada show how soon they would come round to our way of thinking; then in place of our own manufacturers going over to America and starting factories, as Messrs. J. and P. Coates, thread manufacturers, and many more were forced to do, employing American workmen, we should have the work done in this country with our own subjects, now in a state of starvation. The glory of Britain has been in her manufacturing industries, but if she drifts into being a consuming centre, as her present commercial policy encourages her to do, in place of a manufacturing and supplying one, her day is done. Britain, having free trade with her colonies, and doing by others in this matter as they do by her, would yet lead the world, but it is questionable how long she may hold the first place by following her present plan.

At the close a cordial vote of thanks was accorded Mr. Wallace for his highly interesting report, and a similar compliment having been paid to the Chairman for presiding, the proceedings terminated.

REPORT OF MR. WELSH, THE DELEGATE FROM ESKDALE.

On the 20th of January a large meeting of farmers and others was held in the Lymiecleeuch School, Canonbie, to hear the report of the District Delegate to Canada (Mr. Welsh, Gorrenberry). On the motion of Mr. Whitelaw, Dr. Snodgrass was voted to the chair. Dr. Snodgrass, in introducing Mr. Welsh, said they were all glad to welcome him back again, and to see that he had escaped not only the dangers of a voyage across the Atlantic, but that he had not been devoured by land sharks nor fallen a victim to the scalping knife of the Red Indian.

Mr. WELSH then said:—When at a meeting held in this place on the 18th September last, you, by invitation of the Canadian Government, appointed me as your delegate to visit Canada and report upon it as a field for intending agricultural emigrants, you not only conferred on me a high honour, but imposed on me a not unpleasant task. My companion and I were treated with much kindness and courtesy by the Hon. Mr. Pope, and all the agents acting by his instructions, and every facility was afforded us for getting information. Even our request to be sent to Manitoba, that we might be able to tell you something from our own observation about the great Canadian North-West Territory, was, notwithstanding the lateness of the season, at once granted. By others also, in many of the places we visited, Members of the late Government, Senators, Members of Parliament, and private citizens, we were treated with a kindness we can never forget.

On reaching Carlisle I met, and afterwards accompanied, Mr. Wallace, of Twigg-lee, a young man of great ability, appointed by the Thornhill District. After a rather stormy passage, we reached Quebec on the night of 6th October, and proceeded by rail to Richmond, accompanied by Mr. Pennoyer, Government Agent. Guided by him we drove through several townships in the Counties of Richmond, Shefford, Sherbrooke, Compton and Brome—the three first in the centre of the Eastern Townships, the other two adjoining them on the south and east, and also extending to the United States border. These Eastern Townships are part of the Province of Quebec, lying to the south of the River St. Lawrence, and were originally settled by United Empire Loyalists, who left the United States at the time of their separation from Great Britain. Their descendants, together with large numbers of immigrants from all parts of the United Kingdom, form the majority of the present population. In certain districts there are many French Canadian settlers, but the English language greatly predominates, and in the parts we visited no other is in use.

The Committee appointed at the September meeting here instructed Captain Dudgeon to draw up a list of questions or suggestions for my guidance. I shall take up your time by endeavouring to give the information sought—first, as regards the Eastern Townships; next, with reference to Ontario; and afterwards give a short description of what we saw in Manitoba. And if the information given comes far short of your expectations, as I much fear it will, I ask you to consider that, because of the lateness of the season, and the great distances we travelled over, our time before winter set in was very limited. With your permission I shall read the questions, and then attempt to answer them in their order.

1. The price of land—from whom it is to be purchased, Government or late owners?
2. Estimated amount of produce according to price of land—*e.g.*, what would land, say at £10 per acre, be expected to carry and produce?
3. General quality of soil.
4. Size of farm and general accommodation.
5. Breed and quality of stock.
6. Kind and quality of crops.
7. Market value of stock and crops.
8. Rotation of crops, if any.
9. Methods of cultivating the various crops.
10. General management of stock in summer and winter.
11. Facility of market.

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12. Expense of transit and conveyance.
13. Use of ox and horse labour.
14. Machinery and implements used.
15. Method of sale—cash or barter.
16. Use of artificial manures.
17. Drainage.
18. Water supply.
19. Fencing and roads.
20. Modes of conveyance.
21. Supply of farm labourers, havesters and domestic servants; cottage accom-
modation and wages.
22. Rates and taxes.
23. Varieties and quantity of wood; management and disposal of wood.
24. Cost of living.
25. General opinion of Canadians on Free Trade v. Protection; probabilities of
continuance of Protection.
26. Opinion of Canadians as to supply of Canadian cattle for English markets.
27. General idea of Government, police and law courts, school and church ac-
commodation.
28. Probabilities of success attending emigration to the Far West direct.

THE EASTERN TOWNSHIPS.

1. In the districts we visited there are no lands in the hands of Government. The wild or forest lands have been bought by the British American Land Company, or private speculators, and are sold by them at 4 dollars per acre. Improved farms can be bought from the owners, who are also generally the occupiers. Very large numbers are desirous to sell. The price runs from £4 to £6 per acre, with buildings. £10 per acre is quite an exceptional price, and will buy the very pick of the land, close to a town, with all advantages.

2. This being chiefly a grazing district, hay is the principal crop, one acre yielding from one up to three tons. From two to two-and-a-half acres are required to graze a two-year-old steer, and up to three to fatten one. On the best land less will suffice. There were only two small patches of swedes and other roots, which were of fair average quality. One twenty-acre lot of swedes in Compton was first-rate. Potatoes are said to yield up to 300 bushels per acre, and are of good quality. All vegetables were very good. Oats yield a large number of bushels per acre, from 40 to 50, and in one instance up to 80, but are not well filled, and light, I suppose from the climate being too forcing. I heard of oats up to 40 lbs. per bushel, but saw none over 34 lbs., the legal weight of a bushel.

3. In the bottoms, and on the river sides, there is deep alluvial soil, while on the ridges it is generally a rich friable loam, with many boulders interspersed. The glacial current which deposited these has been in the direction of from north-east to south-west, the rocks being striated in that direction. Where boulders are numerous the soil is always good. On sandy soil (and there are portions sandy) there are no boulders. The decay of so much vegetable matter from the dense forest covering it must have greatly enriched the soil.

4. Farms run from 100 to 500 acres. There is generally a good-sized comfortable frame dwelling house, with one or more large-sized barns to hold hay and all other crops; also, having accommodation for horses and cattle. There are no cottages for married servants.

5. Milch cows, of mixed Ayrshire and Alderney breed, are the most numerous stock, and though generally small, seem to be good milkers, and give rich milk. Young cattle are scarce, and not usually of a good sort for feeding. Some stocks have been much improved by crossing with shorthorn. In Compton we saw a first-rate shorthorn stock at the Hon. Mr. Cochrane's. The offspring of one cow, nine in number, realized £26,000, two of them bringing over four thousand guineas each.

Mr. Cochrane has also a number of well-bred Ayrshires for milking. There are few hogs and also few sheep, and these of a mixed breed. There are a good many horses reared; these are light in the bone, hardy, and make excellent harness horses.

6. Besides oats, mentioned above, wheat of excellent quality is grown—in some districts to a considerable extent—and yield best on new land. I heard of 30 bushels per acre (62 lbs.) grown amongst stumps. Also, buckwheat and Indian corn, the last being most profitably grown in the southern districts. Pumpkins, a large orange-shaped vegetable, are grown amongst Indian corn. They are very nutritious, but do not keep after Martinmas. Tomatoes and grapes also ripen in the open air. Apples of splendid quality are universally grown, and bring a good deal of money. Pears and small fruit are also largely grown.

7. There were no local cattle markets held whilst we were in the townships, so we were dependent on what we were told. Young cattle and cattle for feeding seem to bring considerably less than half the price they do here. On the other hand, first-class pedigree animals for breeding purposes bring as large prices as those bred in this country. The price of the best fat animals is ruled by the British market, to which the most of them are shipped. An animal, of from 50 to 60 stones, brings from £7 to £10 less than it would if fed and sold here. Butter was this year selling from 16 to 18 cents per lb. (The cent is the same as our half-penny.) Five or six years ago it was from 25 to 31 cents. Cheese from 10 to 11 cents. It can be made at from 6 to 7, and will pay at 8 cents. When made in a factory 10 per cent. is needed to pay the manufacturer. An ordinary cow gives 2,000 lbs. of milk in a season—9½ lbs. of milk make 1 lb. of cheese, and 22 lbs. a pound of butter. Oats were selling at 30 to 32 cents per bushel of 34 lbs., hay at 7 dollars a ton, and potatoes at 25 cents per bushel of 60 lbs.—last year they were 50 cents. Good winter apples were 10s. per barrel.

8. Some follow the same rotation of cropping as here, others sow two white crops, manuring and sowing down with the second.

9. In sowing down a peck of timothy, 2 lbs. of clover and alsyke, or instead of clover and alsyke, 4 lbs. of cow-grass, at 16 cents per lb., are sown to the acre. Two bushels of wheat, three of barley, and four of oats are sown per acre.

10. Cattle are managed in the same way as here, and do not require to be so long house-fed as they do in the districts of Scotland where "louping-ill" prevails. Many parts of the country seem well adapted for sheep, but very few are kept. They require to be housed in winter, a shed open to the south being preferred, and are fed with hay and a few roots, also grain if being fattened. A ton of hay is said to winter ten sheep, and from one and a half to two tons a two-year old steer. There is said to be no disease amongst sheep or cattle. There were few hogs anywhere except at Mr. Cochrane's. He has a number of black Berkshires, which used to sell at large prices to breed from. They do not now pay much, but take up offal, and are fed on boiled apples, potatoes and turnips. A number of them are grazed in summer, the male along with them.

11. Fat cattle and sheep are bought readily at home for the British and home markets. Good harness horses are bought for the United States and British markets. The butter made in the Eastern Townships is the best in Canada, on account of the richness of the pasture and good quality of the water. For this and also for cheese there is a good demand for the New England States, as well as Montreal and the British markets. Cheese factories are numerous, but many of them were shut up on account of the low price of cheese. If present prices continue no doubt work will be resumed. There is also a weekly market for produce of all kinds in towns and villages, which are numerous.

12. The railway rates for conveyance of stock and produce for short distances are very high—for instance, from Cookshire to Lennoxville, a distance of 18 miles, a cattle car holding about 20 costs 10 dollars, a car of sheep eight dollars, a car of potatoes holding 400 bushels 14 dollars. For long distances rates are much lower. Butter can be sent in quantity from Waterloo to London, England, at a cost of one cent per pound. A barrel of apples from the south of the townships to Montreal

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costs 50 cents, thence to London 72 cents. Ocean freights are probably higher now on account of the large quantities of grain being shipped.

13. In some parts much of the work is done by oxen, in others wholly by horses. Good work oxen cost from £15 to £18 per pair.

14. We saw nothing remarkable in agricultural implements. Where the farming is backward they are of a ruder sort than here. Threshing is principally done by travelling machines, some driven by the weight of the horses walking on a revolving platform. There is a simple powerful machine used for lifting boulders. It is suspended from a tripod, and wrought by a lever and notched wheel. Also another for extracting large stumps and roots, which costs about 80 dollars, and is said to be very powerful. We had not the opportunity of seeing implements and many other things to advantage, being too late to be present at any of the agricultural shows.

15. Sales are wholly for cash.

16. We did not hear of artificial manures being used in the townships.

17 and 18. Nor is draining much resorted to. When done, it is chiefly unbroken stones that are used. The land on the ridges is principally dry; yet on the whole there is not, so far as we saw, any lack of good wholesome water for man and beast. You do not, certainly, in driving through the country, fall in with any of the cool, refreshing springs, or clear gravelly burns so common in our own highly favoured land; yet springs there are, if not so numerous, and creeks, if more sluggish than our burns. There are also occasional fine rivers, with abundance of water power, which is in many places utilized for saw mills, flour mills, woollen factories, &c. Where water cannot be got from spring, creek or river, it is always, I believe, to be got by sinking for it.

19. Farms are sub-divided into fields of moderate size, the fencing being principally by the rail or snake fence. This is often six or seven feet high, and when made of cedar of the proper age will last fifty years. The only objection to it is the ground it occupies when ploughing. There are also occasional good fences made of stake and boarding, and some stone dykes made of boulders gathered from the land. The country is divided into sections by roads running parallel to each other; these are crossed by other roads running at right angles to them, at short and regular distances. They are, therefore, frequently hilly, and are not always kept in good order. There are occasional holes and boulders which it is well to avoid when driving fast. Yet, the horses being hardy and active, the buggies and waggons light and well constructed, and always drawn by a pair, teams, notwithstanding these obstacles, are driven at a good pace. Bridges are of wood, covered in to protect them from the weather. At railway crossings there are no gates, simply a pit on each side to prevent horses and cattle from straying along the line.

20. On waggons, drawn by a pair of spirited horses, or by a yoke of spiritless but patient, steady-going oxen, farm produce of all kinds is conveyed to the most convenient market town, or the nearest station of the many railways by which the townships are so well opened up. These are the Grand Trunk Railway, connecting Quebec and Montreal with Richmond, Sherbrooke, Compton and Portland; the Central Vermont, connecting with Montreal and Boston; the South-Eastern, the Quebec Central, the St. Francis and Megantic International, the St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, the Montreal, Portland and Boston, and the Massawippi Valley Railway. Other lines are contemplated.

21. There is a fair supply of farm labourers and harvesters, at wages not higher than here; in one locality, lower, viz., £1 a year, with board, for farm servants, £3 per month being the usual pay for harvesters. Good men, as a rule, do not long remain servants. They save money and get into land of their own. Men servants are generally single, and board in the house. Cottage accommodation can be got in adjacent villages. We saw few "o' female servant station." They are paid, I believe, about £1 per month.

22. Rates and taxes in towns are often high, but not in the country districts, being there about three-quarters per cent. on value of farm, e.g., on a farm worth

eight thousand dollars, sixty dollars would be the amount charged. This includes all taxes and rates, and may vary a little in different townships. There are no tramps or beggars in these townships—very rarely a few French-Canadian women, driving their own conveyance.

23. There is a large extent of land still under forest, and a considerable variety of wood—amongst others, the cedar, the sugar maple, the different kinds of fir, viz.: the pine, tamarac (larch), spruce, &c., the elm, birch, oak, beech, ash, butternut and the hemlock. The last is there only valuable for its bark. Many keep a "sugary" of maples, from the sap of which, extracted in spring, sugar, or sometimes honey is made by boiling it down, one good tree yielding about three pounds of sugar. Part of cedars are preserved for fencing, and hard woods for firing. Large quantities of wood are used as fuel by the railways. It is piled up in blocks on the side of the lines, and got when wanted. Firewood is sold by the cord, *i.e.*, 8 x 4 x 4 feet, at about two dollars per cord. There being none of the very large lumber here, ordinary wood does not pay for more than the cost of cutting and conveyance, and is frequently burned where it is cut, the ashes used as manure, or sold at five cents per bushel. The ashes of an acre may amount to about 100 bushels.

24. The cost of living, that is of food, is considerably less than here, as may be inferred from the prices of the following articles—beef and mutton (the former poor), 2d. and 2½d. per lb.; good young fowls, 7½d. each; potatoes 1s. per bushel. These were the prices in October at weekly retail markets. Groceries are dearer than here, as also are house rents and clothing.

The remaining questions will be considered afterwards.

ONTARIO.

With reference to Ontario, I must explain that with the exception of two days, whilst we were driving between Belleville and Cobourg, and other two days we were detained in Toronto, the ground was more or less covered with snow all the time I was there, so that I had to trust almost entirely to information got from reliable people about this, the richest province of Canada.

1. There is a much wider range in the price of land in this province than in the Eastern Townships, and it varies greatly in different counties, and in different portions of the same county. Since coming home, Mr. Dymond, of Toronto, has kindly sent me a very carefully prepared descriptive list of 26 counties in the province, from which I shall make quotations, being confident that the statements therein are correct. It is satisfactory to find that information I have obtained from other sources regarding several of these counties is corroborated by his paper: (1) In Middlesex, North Division, the farthest west county given in this list, the price of farms, with buildings, is from £8 to £16 per acre. (2) In Oxford, east from it, from £8 to £15. (3) In Waterloo, north-east from Oxford, from £8 to £20. (4) In Wellington, still to the north-east, from £8 to £16. (5) In Perth, north-west from Wellington, from £6 to £16; and (6) in Huron, north-west from Perth, from £8 to £12. These counties are all west from Lake Ontario, and north from Lake Erie, but not bordering on either of them. (7) Haldimand borders on Lake Erie, and forms part of the Niagara peninsula; price of farms, from £4 to £10 per acre. Next take (8) Northumberland, a county on the north of Lake Ontario, some 70 miles east of Toronto, the prices there range from £2 to £12 per acre; and another (9) Glengarry, the furthest east county in Ontario, near the junction of the Rivers Ottawa and St. Lawrence, where the prices run from £4 to £8.

2. The estimated average produce of cereals and roots in each of these counties in their order is, in—(1) Fall wheat 20 bushels per acre, spring wheat 8 bushels, barley 30, peas 12, oats 35, potatoes 100, turnips 300, hay 1½ tons per acre. (5) Fall wheat 18 to 25 bushels per acre, spring wheat 10 to 20, barley 25 to 45, oats 40 to 50, peas 25, potatoes 100 to 150, turnips 500 to 700, hay 1 to 1½ tons. (7) Fall wheat 20 to 30 bushels per acre, spring wheat 15 to 25, oats 40 to 50, peas 20 to 25, barley 30 to 50, potatoes 250 to 300, turnips 500 to 600, hay 2 to 3 tons per acre.

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(8) Wheat 15 bushels per acre, rye 12, oats 25, peas 15, potatoes 200, corn 30, turnips 400, hay 1 ton per acre.

3. General quality of the soil in—(1) is from heavy clay to sandy loam; (2) rich clay loam, in parts mixed with gravel; (3) mixed fertile soil; (4) clay loam to gravel loam; (5) clay or clay loam; (6) sandy loam; (7) mixture of clay and loam, with sand and gravel on Lake Erie and the valley of the Grand River; (8) sandy loam with some clay; (9) clay on the flats, gravelly loam on the rolling land.

4. Farms are from 100 to 500 acres. There being much more land under crop than in the Eastern Townships, barns are larger, and there is more of other accommodation. Many of the dwelling-houses are built of brick and some of stone.

5. Large numbers of cattle are of a highly improved breed, many of them thorough-bred. Amongst others there is a large herd at Bow Park, near Brantford, said to be the most valuable in the world. There are numerous other excellent stocks of pedigreed animals, as well as good crosses for feeding; also, a large number of useful dairy cows of the old breed. There are very many good harness horses; indeed, most of the horses used seem to be of that description. Sheep are well bred, and become very fat on the grass. They are mostly Cotswold, Leicester or South-down. The number in the province in 1875, the latest returns to be had, were—Sheep, 1,044,000; cattle, 1,000,000; horses, 415,000; hogs, 377,000.

6. Noticed above.

7. Market values are similar to those in Eastern Townships, the price of best fat cattle, breadstuffs, &c., being ruled by the British markets. There being more factories and other industries, there is a better local market for secondary beef and mutton. For instance, at the Asylum, near London, where 500 lbs. of beef are used daily, the price contracted for by the year is \$5.36 per 100 lbs., nearly 2½d. per lb. It is estimated that beef does not pay for feeding here under 5 cents, nor cheese on good land under 10 cents per lb. At one factory in Northumberland the cheese had been sold this year at from 7 to 8 cents, later on it was worth from 11 to 12 cents. 300 lbs. was there considered the average of a cow. Fruit in good seasons adds largely to the farmer's income. We called on one farmer in Northumberland who has 1,000 apple trees. He has gathered 20 bushels from one tree, and expects to sell good winter apples at 4s. per bushel.

8 and 9. In some parts no regular rotation of crops is observed, and no turnips grown on account of the expense of working them. In others two white crops, one green, finishing with two white. In many districts land does not lie well in grass, sown grasses run out from drought and frost; in others it is said to lie well in pasture. Fall wheat is largely grown, and, as the returns show, yields much more than spring sown. There is nothing special in the management of cattle, except the cutting of Indian corn green to feed them in winter. Sheep will be noticed later on.

11. The demand for the home market is considerable in many parts of the province, and there are the same foreign markets for the best cattle and horses. A number of cattle and a good many horses have of late years been transported to Manitoba. Cheese factories are numerous. There are also creameries for the making of butter. It is well intersected by railways, especially in the southern division, 2,464 miles being in operation in 1878, and 448 in course of construction, besides Dominion lines, such as the Grand Trunk. The greatest extent of the best portion of the province is enclosed in the form of a peninsula by Lakes Ontario, Erie and Huron, and the Georgian Bay. This gives an abundance of water communication, and also has the effect of moderating the heat in summer as well as the cold in winter, in the land adjacent. Pennsylvania, with its coal fields, touches Lake Erie on the south.

12. The cost of conveyance of grain, &c., varies considerably. Some time ago wheat was conveyed from Chicago to Liverpool at 9d. per bushel. In the end of November last the cost was 39 cents, nearly 1s. 8d. per bushel. For cattle the ocean freight was from £5 to £6. I am not aware that it is increased. Flour by the barrel was 5s. to Liverpool.

13 and 14. In all the best districts work is done by horses, and the machinery and implements are of an improved sort. Farmers have a more comfortable appearance than the general run of them in the Eastern Townships.

15. Sales are for cash.

16. There are large deposits of gypsum in the province, but artificial manures are not in general use.

17. There does not seem to have been much drainage, except of swamps; the season and state of the weather made it difficult to say where it was needed.

18. Water was abundant in creeks and rivers when we were there, but since the country was cleared there, in the dry season, are all much lower, and springs that once never failed now do get dry. The same amount of rain is supposed to fall, but not so regularly, and there are longer droughts.

19. The snake fence is there also the most prevalent. Roads are better kept, but at certain seasons very muddy, and where the land is rolling in places steep.

20. As stated above, there is abundant railway and water communication.

21. A good supply of farm labourers is kept up by the large immigration of men of that class. These are distributed by the agents in the districts where there is most demand for them, and do not always get better pay than here. In 1878 the average of the harvest wages in the Ottawa District was from 10s. to 12s. per week. Good men servants average from £30 to £36 a year with board, in some localities more than this. In general there is not cottage accommodation.

22. Rates and taxes, including fire insurance, amounts to from one-half to three-quarters per cent. on the value of land.

23. There are the same varieties of wood as in the Eastern Townships; being in many places not so plentiful, firewood is dearer, running from 2 dollars to 4 dollars per cord. To show that sheep in Ontario give a good return when properly managed, I shall give a few extracts from notes got from Mr. Wallace. On a farm on Owen Sound River, County of Bruce, consisting of 555 acres, of which 350 were cleared, in addition to other stock, 350 sheep were kept. The land is rolling, and well watered. The buildings were a comfortable frame house, a barn 64 feet by 100, a sheep shed at the end 30 by 64, and another sheep house 44 by 96, fitted up for wintering 400 sheep (10 or 12 square feet for each). The sheep were fed in winter on half a pound of peas daily, with pea-straw and hay, also a few turnips twice a week. The average return was from 5 dollars to 7 dollars each, the hogs clipping 10 lbs. and the ewes 7 lbs. unwashed. Thirty cattle, bought in the fall at from £4 to £5 each, were sold in July at about double the money, and were wintered on wheat-straw and chaff, with a little hay in April. 100 acres of crop were grown, wheat, oats and peas.

The average sales were—

1,700 bushels wheat at 1 dollar.....	\$1,700
From 350 sheep, including wool.....	1,700
Net profit on cattle.....	300

Total.....	\$3,700
Total expenses, including taxes.....	1,800

Profit each year for 12 years.....	\$1,900
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Two pairs of work horses were kept worth 150 dollars per pair, and 8 cows for the house; also, 6 or 7 hogs were fed for servants who would not have fresh beef. The land in good heart yielded 50 bushels of fall and 20 of spring wheat per acre, peas about 40 bushels, and 5 acres of turnips grown better than in any place in Dumfriesshire. The farm was sold four years ago for 24,000 dollars. The whole stock brought near to 5,000 dollars. I would also like to give Mr. James Laidlaw's valuation of his farm and statement of returns from it. Mr. Laidlaw's father (who is yet alive) went out from near Hawick about 1830, when his family were mere children, and with a very small capital. His four sons have all good farms adjoining

each other, none of which are for sale. Mr. James is M.P.P., and was exceedingly kind in giving information and assistance. This statement has reference to the average of the last five years; the preceding would have given a better balance. It has also reference to good land well farmed. Farm containing 200 acres, well fenced, with frame bank barn (sufficiently large to contain the crop in an average year), with stables and root cellars beneath, and other necessary outbuildings. Stone house one and a half storeys in height, kitchen and other necessary outbuildings, a good supply of water, and a large orchard. Value of the above farm, 14,000 dollars.

Stock.

	\$	cts.	\$	cts.
6 horses.....	@	100 00	600 00	
6 cows.....		50 00	300 00	
6 calves.....		9 00	54 00	
6 one-year-old cattle.....		18 00	108 00	
6 two-year-old cattle.....		30 00	180 00	
6 bought to fatten.....		30 00	180 00	
20 ewes.....		6 00	120 00	
25 lambs.....		3 50	87 50	
1 ram.....			15 00	
1 breeding sow.....			25 00	
Implements, comprising ploughs, harrows, waggons, buggy, harness, &c.....			800 00	
Seeds.....			100 00	
			<hr/>	
			2,569 50	
			14,000 00	
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			16,569 50	

Crop.

Acre.		Bushels per Acre.			
24	Wheat.....	20	at	\$1 00	\$500 00
20	Oats.....	45	at	0 30	270 00
15	Pease.....	25	at	0 70	262 50
15	Barley.....	30	at	0 65	292 50
9	Turnips.....	500			
1	Potatoes.....	125	at	0 50	62 50
35	Hay at 1½ tons.....		at	10 00	525 00
45	Pasture.....				
5	Rape.....				
15	Fallow.....				
15	Woods.....				
200					

Sales.

500 bushels of	Wheat at \$1.....	\$500 00
450	" Barley at 65 cents.....	292 50
125	" Potatoes at 60 cents.....	62 50

Oats, pease, turnips and hay are all required on the farm to feed and fatten the stock (as well as to furnish us with manure for next season), value for these articles must be got from the sales of stocks and their products.

Return from cows, at \$40	240 00
6 two-year-old cattle, when fat, at \$70.	420 00
Profit on 6 bought in, \$40 each.....	240 00
8 fat hogs, at \$15.....	120 00
25 lambs, in spring, at \$6.....	150 00
21 fleeces, at 5 lbs. per head, at 30 cents.....	31 50
Product of orchard.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$2,156 50

Expenses of the Farm.

2 men's wages, one year, each \$225	\$450 00
1 man, 9 months	150 00
Extra help.....	50 00
1 servant girl for one year.....	100 00
Blacksmiths' and carpenters' bills, and tear and wear on implements	100 00
Taxes	60 00
	<hr/>
	\$910 00
Total income from farm.....	\$2,156 50
Total expenses.....	910 00
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Leaving a profit of..... 1,246 50

Or interest on \$16,569.50, the amount of capital invested, at rate $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.

25. It is the general opinion of Canadians that a certain amount of protection is necessary as against the high protective tariff of the United States. Many think the present Canadian tariff is so high as to prevent imports and lessen the revenue, and that it will soon be modified. There are numbers of the opinion that free trade between Britain and the colonies would be most beneficial, and would stimulate emigration to Canada in preference to the United States, so long as the latter did not reciprocate.

26. The exports of stock from Canada to Great Britain have been as follows:—

	Horses.	Cattle.	Sheep.	Hogs.
1876.....	352	2,767	2,607	.....
1877.....	298	7,412	6,825	373
1878.....	1,243	82,115	62,461	1,798
1879.....about	.....	30,000	100,000	.....

Many more calves are kept this year, and in a few years a large increase may be expected. In connection with this, it is stated that by the prevention of Western States cattle from passing through Canada, the loss in traffic to the Grand Trunk Railway has been £3,000 per week.

27. The executive power is administered by the representative of the Crown, viz.: the Governor General, whose advisers are the Government of the day. Parliament consists of two Houses—the Upper House, or Senate, appointed by the Crown for life, and the Lower House, or House of Commons, elected by the people for five years. This Dominion Parliament has charge of all matters of a national character, such as customs, excise, &c. Each province has also a Provincial Government and Parliament of its own, whose powers are confined to matters of a local character. The members, like those of the Dominion Parliament, receive a sessional allowance. There is also a municipal system for the fixing of county rates and taxes. Judges are appointed by the Crown for life. Only large towns have a police force. In rural districts, which are comparatively free from crime, a few county constables are employed. Unlike parts of the United States, in these provinces "Judge Lynch" has no jurisdiction.

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Schools and churches are abundant. There is a public school in each section, where a good English education is given free, teachers being well trained. Next the high school, then the collegiate institute, and last the university. In the two first the charge is £1 per quarter. In the university the fees are £2 for a course of three months. There is no State Church

MANITOBA.

It is now high time for us to start on our long journey to the West. On Friday, 24th October, four of us (Messrs. Gordon, Wilkin, Wallace and I) met in Sarnia, the port of departure for Manitoba. We had been assured the "Ontario" would not sail before Friday, an assurance which was fully justified by our being kept waiting till Sabbath morning. The day was fine. The passengers, few in number, passed the time in various ways. I saw one or two ladies reading the Bible, another sang "Annie Laurie" and other songs, accompanying herself on the piano. The weather in the evening became very stormy, and continued so for some days. Whether there was any connection between the coarse weather and the singing of "Annie Laurie," I will leave to Dr. Begg to determine. If there was, it is satisfactory to know the young lady did not escape the retribution—she was very sick. The "Ontario," though with some difficulty, made her way up Lake Huron, then up the River Sault Ste. Marie, into Lake Superior. We there touched at Silver Islet, on the Canadian side, where are rich silver mines owned by a New York Company, and passed, on the Michigan side, the Hecla copper mines, the richest in the world. They yield about 50,000 tons of ore annually, worth from £60 to £70 a ton. We touched also at Thunder Bay, the terminus of the Winnipeg Railway, in course of construction. Having there landed the aforesaid young lady, we had afterwards good weather, and reached Duluth on the forenoon of Friday, having sailed 860 miles from Sarnia. The remaining 465 miles are by railway to Winnipeg, where we arrived at 3 a.m., on Sabbath morning. We were obligingly conveyed in an omnibus to the side of the Red River, which they knew to be impassable from the newly-formed ice, and declining to pay our shilling each, hurried back to St. Boniface, and got into a little hotel kept by a Frenchman. For the fifty guests the accommodation was limited. Two slept on the billiard table, and we were all stowed away somewhere. In the morning we crossed the river, some 50 yards broad, on the ice. Winnipeg, which stands just below the junction of the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, had, in 1870, a population of 253. It is now a city of 10,000 inhabitants. There are many substantial brick buildings, and some better shops than any I know in Carlisle. On the main street, where all the business places are, sites are now very costly. The site of one dry-goods store, which five years ago was bought for \$100, is now said to be worth \$10,000. Of first-class hotels there are at least four. These, even in November, seemed to be well-filled. There is a fair supply of public schools in the city, which are free, and also several colleges. Of churches there are Church of England, Presbyterian and Methodist, and these have numerous stations and several churches throughout the province.

Manitoba extends about 100 miles from north to south, and 120 miles from east to west, and contains about 9,000,000 acres of land. It is divided by the Red River into two parts, two-thirds being on the west and one-third on the east of that river. There are numerous steamers on the two rivers in summer, but these were all fast in the ice. For the purpose of seeing about us we had, therefore, to engage teams. For the first six days, one or other of the Messrs. Ross, barristers, kindly accompanied and showed us the country, and for several days supplied us with one of the teams. We drove one day to the west, one to the south-west, returning each night; then one day to the south and south-east, returning the next day; afterwards one day to the east, returning the following day more to the north. After leaving the Assiniboine, along which, as on all the rivers, there is a belt of timber, we reached the flat, treeless prairie, which is very dreary looking to those who have been accustomed to "hill, dale, and shady wood, and sunny plain, and liquid lapse of murmuring stream." Here

as everywhere, there is the same deep, rich, black, alluvial soil, varying from 12 to 18 inches up to 6 and 8 feet deep on the river sides. In driving some 18 miles next day across the River Salle, we found soil of the same description resting on sandy loam containing much lime. These lands will be in the market in another year, being half-breed minor reservations, that is homestead allotments reserved for children of French half-breeds. Mr. Ross says these will be sold at from 10s. to 15s., up to 20s. per acre for a good river lot. Mr. Ross buys largely and sells again the first opportunity. The lands at present owned by half-breeds all front on the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, the French half-breeds being mostly on the Assiniboine, and on the Red River south of Winnipeg; the Scotch mostly on the same river, north of Winnipeg. Their lots run from the rivers in a narrow strip, four miles back, the houses having been kept near each other for protection. They are not model farmers, and their lands are gradually getting into other hands. Much of the country has this year been burned by prairie fires, numbers of which were always in progress, and had a fine appearance at night. These are dangerous only when there is a high wind. There was one in particular which, starting some 250 or 300 miles south in Minnesota, and driven north by a furious wind, swept over a considerable portion of Manitoba on both sides of the Red River, causing some loss of life and much destruction of property. The house (a store or stopping-place) we slept at on the Rat River had been burnt down by it just four weeks before, but was again ready for the entertainment of travellers in a rough way. We afterwards saw its track far to the west in the charred and blackened trunks of trees, and heard of serious personal injuries caused by it 80 miles from this. By ploughing a few furrows around house and hay ricks, and burning the grass within when it is calm, people can secure their property from these fires, and few neglect doing so.

On the east side of the river there is more swampy land, some of it so wet as to be at present of no use; this is called muskeg. On land which, very wet in spring, becomes dry in August, excellent hay is got. This, cut by a machine, costs some 5s. per ton to cut and put up. In ordinary years there is not much food for cattle on the dry prairie, which grows principally wildrose, raspberry, &c.; so that grass as well as hay has to be got on land too wet for cropping. These swamps are easily dried, sometimes by a single open drain, which in the deep rich soil soon enlarges into a creek. The Red River here some 50 or 60 years ago could be crossed on foot, or by felling a tree across it, now it is navigable for 200 miles above Winnipeg. The land, which at a comparatively recent period, has been all under water, is known to be undergoing a gradual elevation. Lake Manitoba, 25 years ago, extended to a branch 10 feet higher than the present. On the east coast of Hudson Bay an old ship's anchor has been got in the crevice of a rock 400 feet above the present sea level.

To the east of Winnipeg the land is quite flat, and much of it very wet. There was no difficulty in driving anywhere on account of the severity of the frost. Of roads there, as elsewhere, there are none, and never can be—simply trails or tracks along the prairie, and the less used are so much the better. The main street of Winnipeg and some trails along the river near it were the worst roads I saw. They were all then at the best. In spring many of them must be almost impassable with a load. Some 22 miles east of Winnipeg a fringe of forest extends from the east. From this neighbouring settlers who have wood lots cut and convey it to Winnipeg by waggon or sleigh, selling it there for firewood, at 6 dollars per cord. This is for poplar, the prevailing timber in the province. Oak is a little dearer. Rough lumber for building is from 25 dollars to 30 dollars per 1,000 feet, up to 50 dollars and 60 dollars for finest. Bricks are about 15 dollars per 1,000. Beef from 12 to 15 cents retail, 8 and 9 cents by the carcass; butter 25 cents, wheat 65 to 68 cents per bushel. Ten days ago it was 89 cents. Hay from 6 to 7 dollars per ton. Farm servants are paid 15 dollars per month with board. New land is first ploughed with a furrow 12 to 14 inches broad and 2 inches deep. This is backset in spring a little deeper. These two ploughings when let cost 5 dollars per acre. The seed is sown as soon as the frost is two or three inches out of the ground, and springs immediately. After

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the first crop the ploughing can be done at 6s. per acre, and the yield being variously estimated at from 20 to 30 bushels, it is calculated that wheat can be grown and delivered in Liverpool, at present rate of freight, at 29s. per quarter if the yield is 30 bushels, and at 34s. 4d. if the yield is only 20 bushels per acre (Mr. Wilkin). We got sample of soil on which wheat has been grown for fifty years in succession without manure, but this is near the river where the alluvial soil is deepest. Some who have tried manure on new land say it does not improve the crop, but makes it run more to straw. All vegetables grow to an extreme size without any trouble, and two crops of potatoes have been grown in the season, but no attempt at growing fruit has yet succeeded. There is not usually more than from 15 to 18 inches of snow, and the frost penetrates 4 or 5 feet into the ground. This supplies moisture to the roots of the plants, and, by preserving the soil at a lower temperature, is supposed to improve the quality of the grain.

In Manitoba, as in all the North-West Territory, there is extreme heat in summer and extreme cold in winter. The lines of equal summer temperature stretch far into the North-West, and at Fort Simpson, 12 degrees farther north than Winnipeg, the mean temperature in July and August is only 3 degrees lower. Winnipeg is 49.52 north. The most of the land in the Peace River, from 56° to 59° north, is considered well adapted for wheat growing, the length of day in summer being a great advantage. The frost in winter is very severe all over, the thermometer sometimes going down to 40° below zero. The milder winter caused by warm winds from the Pacific does not extend more than 100 miles east from the Rocky Mountains. Notwithstanding the intensity of the frost, cold is not felt so much as in a moister climate, the dry air acting as a non-conductor. On some it has quite an exhilarating effect. One gentleman told me that in frosty weather he always felt as if intoxicated. He is a native of the Sister Isle, and no "cannie Scot" should count anything on getting such a cheap substitute for his national beverage. There are occasional snow storms, called "blizzards." If any one is caught by one of them on the prairie he must keep himself warm as best he can till it blows over. The dryness of the atmosphere also tempers the heat in summer, and the nights are said to be generally cool. Thunder storms are not of uncommon occurrence, and are very alarming to nervous people. Mosquitoes and black flies, called, I think, "bull dogs," are a "caution" for two months. Notwithstanding these disadvantages, all lands in the province available for homesteads are taken up, and anyone wishing free land must go farther west. A free grant of 160 acres is given to every male 18 years old, on condition of settlement, and the right to another 160 acres adjoining, called pre-emption land, at a certain price, two-fifths of which is payable three years after entry, and the remainder in six equal payments annually, with interest at the rate of six per cent. The price of pre-emption land is fixed by its distance from the projected Canadian Pacific Railway, the country being divided into five belts for a distance of 110 miles on each side of it. In belts A, B and C (5, 15 and 20 miles), the price is 2½ dollars per acre; in D (20 miles) 2 dollars, and in E (50 miles) 1 dollar. The country is divided into townships six miles square, and these are sub-divided into sections of a square mile each, which are numbered, and the even sections allotted for homestead and pre-emption. The odd sections are reserved as railway lands and are sold at a certain fixed price, viz.: from 1 dollar up to 5 dollars per acre in the five belts, payable in ten equal annual instalments, with interest at 6 per cent. In each township two sections belong to the Hudson's Bay Company, and two are reserved for educational purposes. As was mentioned above, all homestead lands are taken up in Manitoba, and all railway lands, at least in the cheaper belts, are bought up and many of them held by speculators.

The last district we visited was the Pembina River, driving 40 miles up the Red River to Morris, then 80 miles west to Rock Lake, which is just into the North West Territory. Up the Red River and round about Morris the land is excellent, farther west there is a good deal of swamp. On the flat prairie here water is not always easily found. At one farm water sinking over 100 feet, only bitter water was reached. Some 25 miles west from the Red River we got into rolling prairie, and this con-

tinued all the way to Rock Lake. This fine section of country is largely settled by men from Ontario. In North and South Dufferin alone, 900 homesteads were taken up last summer. We crossed the Pembina Mountain, which is just an elevated plateau, from which you drop suddenly into the valley of the Pembina River, here about 1,000 yards broad. On each side rise a succession of little rounded knolls, to the height of about 200 feet, covered with poplar and oak timber or scrub. The river, some 46 feet broad, is crossed by a wooden bridge, for which an enterprising Yankee, who had put it up, charged us 1 dollar for the two teams. Showing that some such structure is needed, a short distance up from the river is the grave of a young Scotchman, who was drowned a year before, whilst crossing on horseback. About Rock Lake, 8 miles long by $1\frac{1}{2}$ broad, the country is very pretty and well wooded. In returning to Emerson we were one night at Crystal City and another at Mountain City. There are not, or rather were not, six houses in them both. There is much good oak timber in the neighbourhood of the latter, and a broad belt of it along the Pembina River, where it crosses into Dakota. If prairie fires could be suppressed there would soon be sufficient timber through the province. As it is, there is some anxiety felt regarding the future supply of wood for fuel. Coal is said to be found on the Souris River, 150 miles west from Rock Lake. Since we left, a railway from Emerson to that River has been projected, to be called the Emerson and Turtle Mountain Railway. Before reaching Emerson we passed through the Mennonite Reserve, which extends from near the Red River, 42 miles west along the United States border, and 18 miles to the north. This Pembina Reserve contains seventeen townships, and another reserve for the same people on the east of the Red River contains eight townships. The lands on the latter are rather wet, and a number of the settlers are moving across to the Pembina Reserve. They are quakers from Russia, are a thrifty, industrious people, and have good houses, from which they seem to exclude all the fresh air in winter. They have a number of excellent cattle, and, being near the river and railway, sell a large quantity of wheat.

Emerson is on the east side of the Red River, close to United States, and also to the railway; and is, therefore, just at the entrance to Manitoba and the North-West. It has already a population of 1,000. There are in it many stores, and four churches, and two weekly papers are published. From its position it is certain to rise rapidly.

In Winnipeg there are three daily and five weekly papers, and in Manitoba and North-West there are now one hundred and eighteen post offices, where a few months ago there were sixty-nine.

You must have read so much on this subject lately, that I am painfully aware you have heard very little that is new to-night; at the same time, I am conscious of having borrowed nothing from anyone without acknowledgment. Of course I have given you a mere abridgement of notes taken; to have gone more into detail might have been easier for me, but would have tried your patience too much. What further information I can give will be willingly afforded to any one desiring it. From information obtained from this and other reports, I hope you will be able to form a correct opinion of Canada, and to decide for yourselves whether you will choose it as your future home in case any of you should make up your minds to leave this country. There is every likelihood that the present population of Canada will, ten years hence, be increased by millions. Most of you will admit that a large number of tenant-farmers can be spared from this country, and still leave plenty behind; that the first if not the chief evil farmers have had to contend with has been over competition; that, in fact, their worst foes have been of their own household. The continuous increase of population, and the fact of there being in our island home no new lands to fall back upon, make it imperative that the agricultural class should be frequently decimated by emigration. At no previous time had these considerations greater force than now, when a period of over-competition and high rents has been followed by several seasons so disastrous, and when, in addition, there has been such a rapid development of the almost unlimited resources of this very continent in the immense and ever increasing importations of agricultural produce of all sorts. If, then, emigration be a necessity,

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the question remains, where should farmers go? The thoughts of everyone must naturally turn first to Canada, as being the most accessible of all the British colonies; but let me give a word of warning, namely: That no one with a moderate capital should expect to become rapidly wealthy by buying land and farming it in Ontario or the Eastern Townships. The land is better than I expected to see it from Mr. Grahame's description; the country quite as pleasant to live in as he described it; but with the stock many of them have, the returns are small. And yet, I believe, any one possessed of a moderate amount of skill and industry, and with a capital of from £1,500 to £2,000 may select a good spot in the Eastern Townships, buy 200 acres of land and do well. The scenery in many parts is much like some of our own country—not certainly as fine as Liddesdale, more like Canonbie—and the people very like ourselves. I liked the land about Compton best. There are also good places about Cookshire; but anyone going there would need to carefully select a spot for himself, and afterwards get into good stock, and make sheep and cattle ready for the British market. In Ontario buildings are better and more commodious, and land is dearer. In any number of places you could settle down and be quite as comfortable as at home. A larger capital is here required; or farms may be rented at about 5 per cent. on the purchasing value. The interest of money borrowed on mortgage is from 8 to 12 per cent., both in Quebec and Ontario. In these provinces there has been a depression, just as there has been in this country. I was told that five or six years ago he was a very stupid person who could not make money there. Now many are desirous to sell their land for various reasons—numbers of old people to retire, who either have no family or whose sons have gone into business; others to make a better provision for their families in the North-West, and many besides whose land is mortgaged, and who, from the high rate of interest, find it difficult to meet their obligations. Taken as a whole, these proprietor farmers are men of culture and intelligence, with whom any one may be pleased to associate; and by far the largest number, especially in Ontario, are, I believe, in comfortable, if not independent, circumstances. To men of character and intelligence all offices are open.

Manitoba also is being settled by a class of superior men. Numbers of those we saw are from Ontario, and they make excellent pioneers. In Winnipeg the society is quite equal to that in any of our Scottish cities.

In Manitoba abundance of land can be purchased at from 8s. to 20s. per acre, according to locality, for where dry the quality is almost universally good. The great matter is to have a supply of water and wood, and to be near river or railway station. It is also necessary to have a little capital to fall back upon, as Mr. Gordon advised in his report, in case of a visitation of grasshoppers or an unfavourable season. This capital if not needed will there bring high interest, from 12 to 15 per cent., with ample security, that is land which is at its lowest value. For large capitalists Manitoba has equal attractions. They can choose one or three modes of investment, or try them all, viz.,—they can buy land and farm it, or they can buy and wait for a rise in value, and land judiciously bought will certainly bring double the price in a very few years; or they can loan money at high rate of interest, the security being perfect. Farmers are better to borrow money at even 15 or 20 per cent. than be without cattle, which will, at least, double in value each year, and which at present can be kept in summer on unoccupied land, at the mere cost of herding and in winter at 15s. (fifteen shillings) a head. A man even with no capital, who is without encumbrance, and willing and able to work, may take up a homestead with a fair prospect of success. By hiring himself to a farmer, or working on railway—for which, in November, seven shillings a day was paid—he may have part of his ground cultivated by contract, until able to "take up house" himself. But before going in this way, a Canadian Government agent should be consulted, in case at any time there should be an over-supply of labourers. The North-West is in the meantime least adapted for men of small capital, with wife and young children. They could, however, occasionally buy from settlers in Manitoba who wish to move westwards. With a family of grown-up ones it is altogether different; they, by taking up adjoining sections can be a great mutual help. Grasshoppers did not visit the

province from 1827 to 1867. They afterwards ravaged it every alternate year till 1875, since then it has been exempt from them. I have been assured by the Surveyor-General that there is a belt of country from 150 to 200 miles broad, stretching in a direction between west and north-west from Manitoba to the Rocky Mountains, which is nearly all adapted for settlement, being mostly well supplied with water and timber. South from this there is a belt where soil is not so good and the rainfall lighter. The same gentleman was told by an old Hudson's Bay official, who knew every foot of territory, that of all others the Peace River was the place he would choose for settlement. When the line from Thunder Bay to the Red River is completed, as it probably will in from two to three years, it is stated that wheat will be conveyed from Winnipeg to Montreal for 10d. per bushel. Until this is completed, and along with other lines extended westward, there can be no proper outlet for the enormous quantity of grain which can be grown here. When proper communication is opened up then the North-West will participate with the other provinces of Canada in that proximity to the European markets which no other British colony is favoured with. Canada has a further advantage in adjoining along its immense southern boundary that great kindred nation whose population is increasing so rapidly. This contiguity will, I believe, be felt to be for the benefit of both, when there is between them a free interchange of all commodities.

Mr. Church, Tower of Sark, proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Welsh for his interesting report, which was seconded by Mr. Doughty, Byreburn, and heartily accorded.

REPORT OF MR. JAMES PALMER, DELEGATE FROM SOMERSETSHIRE.

MR. JAMES PALMER, who was appointed as a representative of the Somersetshire farmers, sends a short report from Canada. He unfortunately took a bad cold just before leaving this country, and had a severe illness after his arrival in the Dominion. This somewhat curtailed his operations, and has prevented him making, hitherto, a more detailed report to his constituents. This is the more to be regretted as, owing to the advanced state of the harvest in the South of England, Wales and Ireland when the invitations were sent out, many districts which would gladly have elected delegates had not time to do so. As it is, however, Mr. Palmer has addressed the following interesting letter to Mr. J. W. Down, of Bristol, the Agent who obtained his appointment:—

LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA,
1st January, 1880.

MR. JOHN W. DOWN, Bristol.

MY DEAR SIR,—I have great pleasure in writing to inform you that I am much pleased with Canada, for the prospects are different to what they are in England, especially for farmers. My sons are delighted with the country and the farms. I have purchased for them in all 273 acres, in two farms situated seven miles from this, near the main road towards Exeter. They have a good house on each lot, with orchards, outbuildings, &c., and 75 acres fenced and under cultivation on each lot. The whole cost \$7,500, less than I had to pay rent for land in two years in Somersetshire—that is to say, two years' rent per acre. I can strongly recommend this country to my friends and others who intend to emigrate. If a farmer leaving England wish a dairy farm, or one for stock raising, my advice to him is to take a good look at the Eastern Townships, Province of Quebec, where he will find farms which may be purchased on very reasonable terms, and just what he would like, close to markets, railway and shipping. If a grain-growing farm is wanted I would prefer Ontario, but I am not certain, and am inclined to believe that a dairy or stock-raising farm would prove the best investment. Hundreds are flocking away to Manitoba

from these old settlements, to enable themselves to obtain large tracts of land, and thus keep their families together. I believe Manitoba and the North-West are better suited for Canadian settlers who have been used to pioneer life, or to young men from England, farmers who have a capital of say £200 to £500, or men with small families. A man with a large family must have a deal to contend with for the first two years; such men I would advise to settle in the Province of Quebec or Ontario, and avoid pioneer life. There are any amount of good farms to be purchased in either province.

Farm labourers do very well here, and soon become, by industry, the owners of land. Please send copy of this letter to my friends whose addresses you have; they need not be afraid to come. When once on board one of the Allan Royal Mail Steamers they will be made comfortable, and on landing will be well treated by the Canadian Government Agents. I took a severe cold the night before I left England, and have been laid up with rheumatics ever since (an old complaint of mine). This prevented me from returning to England and reporting to my constituents as I promised. The rest of my family will join me in the spring.

Wishing you all well,

I am yours respectfully,

(Signed) JAMES PALMER.

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APPENDIX.

REPORT OF HUNT W. CHAMBRE, ESQ., J.P., OF STEWARTSTOWN,
COUNTY TYRONE.

In making report of my observations in Canada for the benefit of intending settlers, I wish to mention that I had an opportunity, during the summer of 1879, of seeing the crops growing and being cut in the Province of Ontario, and of learning something of the system of farming pursued by the people there, as well as visiting Manitoba and the Canadian North-West as far as Rapid City in the autumn. I found the principal crops in Ontario consisted of fruit, fall or winter and spring wheat, peas, Indian corn, oats, barley, and meadow (from timothy) grass and clover, potatoes, turnips, and mangolds. I did not see a great breadth of green crop, as the people do not, in my opinion, go in sufficiently for winter feeding and making manure, their stocks of cattle, as a rule, being too small for their farms, relying too much a great deal on the extraordinary fertility of the soil which gives them crops year after year without manure. Almost all the crops I saw, except the spring wheat, were very fine, though the management of them in general was not all that one could desire. There could not be any doubt of the very great fertility of the soil, mostly a dark, sandy loam. The climate, too, I considered much better than that of Ireland, fruit, wheat, peas, and corn coming to much greater perfection than with us. Though the thermometer in July was from 100 to 130 degrees of heat out of doors, I was not so much annoyed or inconvenienced by it as I have often been at home when it stood at from 70 to 90. This I attribute to the dry, clear atmosphere instead of the moist heat of Ireland. For much the same reason, I was told and believe, the cold in winter is not at all so much felt as has been generally reported and believed here.

I was very much pleased with some parts of the country I went through, but particularly with the neighbourhood of St. Catherines, and am satisfied that for persons of middle age, without large families and with a moderate amount of capital, Ontario is a very good place to settle, particularly for those who have the knowledge and taste for raising fruit, which pays exceedingly well, peaches, grapes, &c., &c., coming to perfection in the open air. I heard of instances where parties cleared from £80 to £100 per acre for fruit in different parts of Ontario, but particularly in the neighbourhood of St. Catherines. The spring wheat, as a rule, was not good, and the pasture had a dry, sickly appearance I did not like; but in both cases, I believe this was caused by the scourging system of farming pursued by the people, who have been year after year raising grain crops from the same ground without manure, and, having got into this system, never think of applying manure as they should, which is the only thing, I believe, their soil wants to give them almost any sort of crop, and a much higher yield per acre of grain than they are at present satisfied with. I found many Ontario farmers preparing to go to Manitoba, and on making inquiries as to the reason, found there were various causes. First, many of the people had commenced farming without any capital, and in consequence got into debt, which, while their families were growing up, they were unable to pay off, and were, consequently, obliged to pay very high rates of interest—8, 10 and 12 per cent.—which, of course, crippled them very much, and now, when their sons had grown up, their farms (mostly only 100 acres) being found too small, and also having, from the system of farming pursued so long, ceased to yield so well as formerly, a change had become necessary. By selling out these places they were realizing sufficient to pay off their debts and establish themselves in Manitoba, where they could procure not

only land sufficient to make room for their sons, but also fresh and almost inexhaustible soil. The settler going to Ontario with reasonable capital and a proper knowledge of farming and fruit raising can do well. He can purchase a farm with suitable house and office-houses for about half of what he would pay for Tenant-Right in Ulster, have then no rent and very little taxes to pay, with as great a certainty as there can be of anything in this world of much better crops. He will also have first-class schools free for his children.

But for the man who has a large family, or wants to farm extensively, Manitoba is the place.

It was only in 1871 Canada discovered what a treasure she had in Manitoba and the great North-West, and since then the progress of that country has been extraordinary. Winnipeg, its present Capital, which then only numbered 400 inhabitants, now has 12,000, and is daily increasing. Still, the Canadian Government, knowing what an immense tract of fertile soil she possessed, and finding that the people of the Old Country (as they term the British Isles), no matter what their agents might say, would not believe the accounts thus given, most wisely decided on bringing out British farm delegates to see for themselves what the country could do, and report to their brother farmers at home, knowing that the people of the Old Country would depend on their account when they would not listen to or believe the accounts given by immigration agents. For my part, I would not have believed any land could have been so fertile had I not seen it myself. There are at present two routes to Manitoba, one partly by lake and partly by rail, which is the least fatiguing for females or children, though it takes a longer time. The other route, by all rail, is much shorter, the whole journey from Montreal being accomplished in about four days, though, if time permits, the route per lake is most pleasant.

With the Hon. Mr. Mackenzie Bowell and Hon. Mr. Aikins, I joined the party at Southampton, Ontario, sailing across Lakes Huron and Superior, and staying for two days at Prince Arthur's Landing, where we were most kindly treated by the Railway Contractors, and brought for 130 miles over the great Atlantic and Pacific Railway now in progress, and which is to go right through Manitoba and the North-West, and is expected to be opened as far as Winnipeg in the course of next year (1880). From this we proceeded to Duluth by steamer, and then by rail to Winnipeg, travelling for hundreds of miles through the great prairies of the United States, which had just recently been burned, and looked like one vast plain stretching as far as the eye could reach, in all directions; of my opinion of these prairies, more further on. When we arrived at Winnipeg, which is situated at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, we were astonished to find it such a fine city, with broad streets and excellent shops and stores, where the settler can be supplied with anything he requires. The soil in Manitoba is a black vegetable-mould, from 15 inches to 4 or 5 feet deep, in general on a friable clay sub-soil. I consider the soil about Winnipeg heavy and very fertile, of which the roots and vegetables in the market and the wheat stubble in the field furnished ample evidence; a good deal of the land immediately about Winnipeg is in the hands of speculators, who have purchased it at low rates, and hold for an advance, the consequence being that settlers are moving farther west.

We went from here to Portage-la-Prairie in spring vehicles called "Democrats," carrying four passengers, and each drawn by two horses; there are no regular roads yet, but simply tracks across the prairie. The creeks or small rivers being, when of any size, rudely bridged over, and at other places bundles of willows or sticks thrown in, over which we drove horses and vehicles appearing to be well suited for such work. This road is the great highway to the North-West. On our way from Winnipeg we passed at first through a good deal of good land, then through a lot low and swampy, but from which quantities of good hay could be cut. We stayed a night at an inn on the banks of the Assiniboine; the land here did not please me, but shortly after passing this began to improve. As we came towards Poplar Point, from which place to High Bluff and on to Portage, the soil is very good and thickly settled; the wheat stubbles in the fields were clean and strong, and spoke of heavy crops having

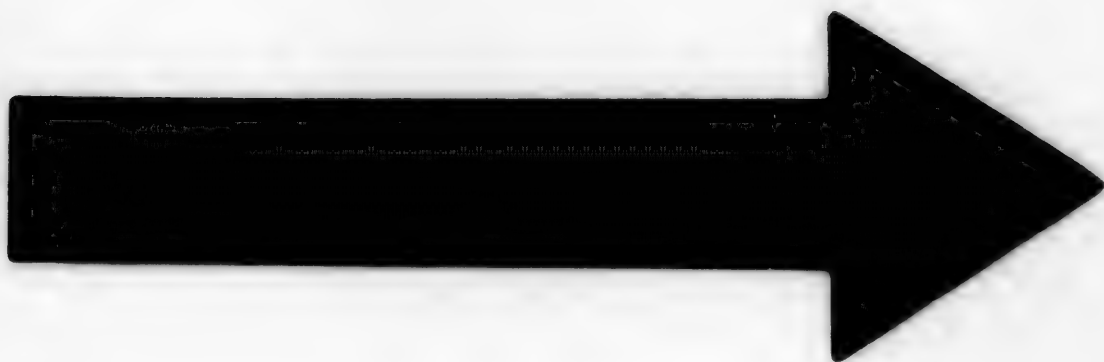
been taken. Land could be purchased here at from \$10 to \$15 per acre. At High Bluff we got some very fine samples of wheat. The accounts given of the yield per acre differed very much, from 25 to 45 bushels, we were told. I believe each of these accounts may have been true, the cause of the difference being due more to the skill, or want of it, of the farmers than to the soil. I have no doubt that the careful farmer, who knows his business, would easily get from 35 to 45 bushels on such land as I saw here. We talked with many settlers both here and farther west, who had been for many years settled in Ontario, and they all seemed greatly pleased with their change, and spoke highly of their new position and prospects. Close to Portage we spoke to a Scotch settler who was ploughing down a strong, clean wheat stubble, and told us he had had seventeen crops of wheat in succession, without rest or manure, off the same ground; and that before he purchased it thirteen crops had been taken—all without manure—and that this year he had had 35 bushels per acre, being the 40th crop. The price of wheat at the time of our visit was 55 cents at Portage, and 65 at Winnipeg, but, before we left, it had risen 10 to 15 cents. The rate of freight to Montreal is about 34 cents per bushel, but when the new railway is opened to Thunder Bay, which is expected in less than two years, it will be about 17 cents. As a wheat growing district I would not compare what I saw of Dakota or Minnesota, in the United States, with Manitoba. The rich black soil of the latter being much deeper, and the sub-soil much better, will consequently stand much more cropping. At present the yield is greater by from ten to twelve bushels per acre. In addition to this, when we take into consideration that as soon as the new railway is opened the cost of delivery on board the ocean steamers will be actually less, the superiority of Manitoba is very great. Indeed, from all I could learn, I have no doubt Manitoba and the Canadian North-West are bound very seriously to affect the wheat-growing districts of the United States, whose average yield is not much more than half that of Manitoba. From Portage we proceeded towards Rapid City, under the very kind and able guidance of Joseph Ryan, Esq., M.P. for Marquette. I was greatly pleased with the country for about the first twenty miles. We stopped for a night on the farm of Mr. Yeoman, about fourteen miles west of Portage, and received much kindness and information from the owner, who showed us some very fine roots, mangold-wurzel, sugar beet, potatoes, &c., grown without manure, the mangold and beet giving 800 bushels to the acre. He showed us also, in his garden, brown Spanish ramishes of most extraordinary size, and sun flowers which were grown for feeding fowl; some of their stalks were 10 feet high, with flowers 13 inches in diameter. He informed us also that he had two waggon loads of citron-melons off two ridges in his garden 17 yards long. So abundant were they we saw him feed his pigs with them. His wheat was also very good, yielding about 38 bushels to the acre. The black soil here was from 2 to 3 feet deep, and then clay sub-soil. Some miles after this we came to Beaver Dam, and from this on for several miles was low and marshy, with many lakelets swarming with wild duck, and the prairie round with prairie chickens. Many miles of good prairie meadows here for cutting, but not much of this neighbourhood good for tillage until drained. After this, we passed a district where the soil was a good deal more sandy, and the country covered with scrubby trees and willows, which, for the present, is being passed by settlers, but after a time, I have no doubt, will all be brought into cultivation. Some miles further on we stopped at Mr. McKinnon's and had a look at his farm, which I thought rather light and sandy, but he appeared well pleased with its fertility. We then passed through some miles of country greatly covered with small timber. Several settlers had commenced work here, and the ground, when turned up, looked very well. After this we passed for some miles through a sandy, barren looking district, not good for much, and at length came out on what is called the Beautiful Plain—an immense stretch of fine rolling prairie, all of which we were informed had been taken up by settlers, though some had not yet come, and all round we could see houses in various stages of building. We remained a night and day on this plain at the farm of a Mr. Mack, who was busy getting up his office houses, and had his first crop of wheat and oats, a very fine one, in his stack-yard. He had a fine herd of cattle, was

more. At High of the yield per acre each of these more to the skill, the careful farmer, each land as I saw no had been for with their change, stage we spoke to stubble, and told it or manure, off crops had been 15 per acre, being cents at Portage, cents. The rate of new railway is it will be about 17 saw of Dakota or soil of the latter stand much more bushels per acre. as the new railway is actually less, the I learn, I have no riously to affect the d is not much more s Rapid City, under Marquette. I was s. We stopped for east of Portage, and howed us some very without manure, the s also, in his garden, flowers which were with flowers 13 inches ds of citron-melons re they we saw him g about 38 bushels to d then clay sub-soil. on for several miles duck, and the prairie ows here for cutting, ined. After this, we d the country covered g passed by settlers, ivation. Some miles arm, which I thought e fertility. We then rned up, looked very on looking district, not eautiful Plain—an im- rmed had been taken e could see houses in this plain at the farm had his first crop of fine herd of cattle, was

well pleased with the country, and had taken up a large tract of land. Next day we passed through a vast district of rolling prairie, well suited for cattle raising, but not for tillage, on account of numerous small lakelots and ponds. Any amount of good prairie hay could be had in this neighbourhood for the cutting. We reached Rapid City, on the Saskatchewan, at night, and next morning saw a very fine plain of undulating land away to the west, with many settlers' houses in the distance; but a prairie fire had recently passed over this plain doing much harm. Rapid City (so called), on the Saskatchewan, when we were there, consisted of just 23 houses, but with several others going up. There were some good shops and stores, a saw mill in full work, and a grist mill about being built. The land immediately on each side of the river looked stony, though I found the stones were only on the surface, but a short distance from the river on either side the land was very good, the black soil being about 15 inches deep, and then light clay. We saw here some very large onions and potatoes raised by Indians without manure. Time not permitting our going further, we started next day on our home journey, and held conversation with several settlers, some of whom were fresh from England, others from Ontario, and all well pleased with their ground. The land about here appeared to be all taken up. On our way out and back we passed long trains of settlers going up with their families. I could not help feeling they were making a great mistake going up so late in the season (the end of October), as they would not have time to get their houses up before winter. From all the reports I received, the following would be about an average yield of the different crops in Manitoba and the Canadian North-West. Wheat, 35 to 40 bushels, weighing 60 to 62 lbs. per bushel, sown from first week in April to first week in May, and reaped in August. Oats, about 75 bushels per acre, weighing 35 lbs. per bushel; these can be sown until middle of May. Barley can be sown as late as the first week in June, and yields about 42 bushels per acre, and 50 lbs. per bushel. Potatoes, without manure, 10 to 12 tons per acre; and turnips, also without manure, up to 25 tons per acre.

On our return journey to Winnipeg, many of the farmers having got well on with their autumn ploughing, were threshing, and the regular practice was, as soon as the grain was removed to burn the straw, having no use for it, no manure being required. In newly settled districts, when but small portions of the prairie have been got into cultivation, many prairie fires take place with much loss to farmers occasionally, but in most cases where this happens they are to blame themselves, as if they take the precaution of ploughing eight or nine scores round the homestead or stackyard the fire cannot pass it. On our return to Winnipeg, by the kindness of Mr. Ross, we visited the neighbourhood of Emerson and Otterburn, east of Winnipeg, and saw some very fine land and the finest growth of natural hay I ever saw. The Messrs. Ross, of Winnipeg, have large tracts of good land to dispose of in this neighbourhood for from \$2 to \$3½ per acre, lying right along the railway.

On our return journey we stopped to see some of the Minnesota and Dakota prairie, and went to see one of the celebrated Dahympfle farms, where 8,000 acres of wheat were grown this year, and 500 acres of other grain crops for feeding the horses. We were most kindly and hospitably received by the Manager, Mr. Button, and shown all that was to be seen. Everything was conducted on the most systematic style possible; all the implements were of the most improved description, and those were stored in the best possible order when not in use. I saw 14 double-furrow sulky ploughs at work following each other in one field a mile long, each plough drawn by four horses or mules, and the whole turning over about 70 acres per day about 6 inches deep. This was the deepest and best ploughing I saw, but the soil was not to be compared with that of Manitoba. This year's average yield of wheat was only 19 bushels per acre, and the average of the last four years only 23 bushels. The sample of wheat I saw was also very poor, altogether confirming my opinion that these prairies were not nearly so good as those of Manitoba. The mode of procedure on this farm is to sow the seed in the first week in April—1 bushel and 20 quarts to the acre; it is sown with drill machines, 19 of which are set to work at once; each team can put in 12 to 15 acres per day, the ground getting a couple of strokes of the har-



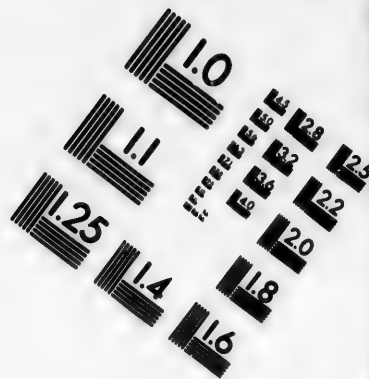
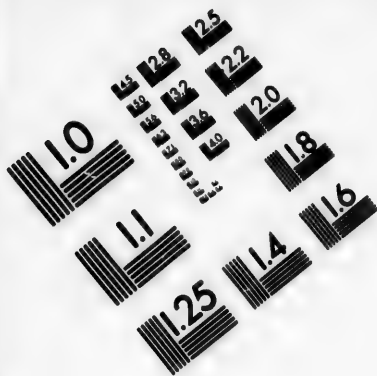
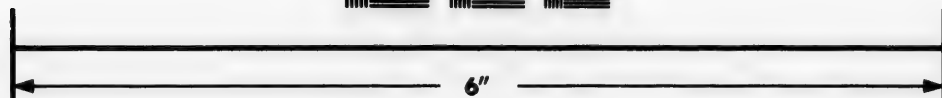
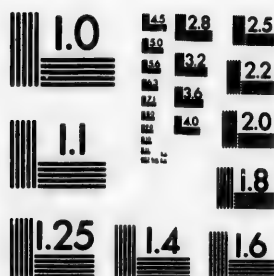


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row after the drill. There are 25 self-binding reaping machines on the farm, and 5 steam threshing machines, for some of which they use straw as firing. This season the horses never lost a day's work from the 1st April, when frost was sufficiently gone to commence sowing, which is when the frost has thawed a few inches on the top; the gradual thawing of the rest helps to moisten the ground and start the wheat.

The cattle I saw in Manitoba were good and strong, though rather coarse, but were in good condition. Crossed with a good shorthorn bull they would produce very fine stock. I did not see many sheep, but the few I saw looked very well, and I have no doubt would pay the farmer. One-year-old cattle are worth here from \$10 to \$16; two-year-olds, \$20 to \$30; and three-year-olds, \$40 to \$50. Draught oxen cost about \$160 per pair, for good strong trained animals, less, of course, for inferior, and a shade more for top animals. Oxen, being easier fed, are better than horses for the new settler for the first year, or until he has oats of his own, when, if so minded, he can easily change. Although the native cattle and horses can live out all winter, they would be much better with hay and shelter, and the improved breeds would not do without it. I have no hesitation in recommending Manitoba and the Canadian North-West to my countrymen as the best place for a man to go to who wants to earn money and is not afraid to rough it for a time. He will have many discomforts for the first year or so, will be annoyed, I dare say, by mosquitoes and black flies for about three weeks in the year, but even these pests give way before civilization, and will, I have no doubt, ere long disappear. I believe any man determined to work and push on, even though he has not a penny to start with, will succeed here as wages are good; but the man who has £100 clear to begin with will do better, and the one who has £200 or £300 or more will do better still, and be saved many discomforts. There are numbers in the north of Ireland disputing about small pieces of land and paying large amounts for tenant right, who, for half the sum in Manitoba, would become the owners of land, one acre of which would be worth two of those they fight so much about.

Time or space do not admit of my giving many useful particulars fully entered in my notes, but I will be happy to reply to anyone writing to me on the subject.

REPORT OF MR. JOHN MAXWELL, OF CARLISLE.

On Monday, September 8th, 1879, I attended a meeting at Castle Douglas, at which my friend, Mr. James Biggar, was unanimously elected as delegate from Kircubrightshire, for the purpose of visiting Canada, and reporting upon its suitability as a field for agricultural emigrants. Though not one of the Government delegates, I have much pleasure in giving you an account of what I saw, and of adding my testimony to that of others on the resources and prospects of the Dominion.

On his appointment, Mr. Biggar requested me to accompany him; and though the notice was short, as the vessel sailed on the Thursday following, I consented; and having secured our berths on the steamship "Peruvian," of the Allan Line, we sailed from Liverpool on September 11th, arriving in Quebec, after a most enjoyable passage, on Sunday, September 21st.

On the Friday previous to our arrival at Quebec, we sailed along the coast of Anticosti, and on the Saturday morning had fairly entered the St. Lawrence. These were beautiful days, a clear sky and bright sun overhead, the heat tempered by the slight sea breeze, while the waters of the St. Lawrence appeared to be alive with seals; and here and there a porpoise, and occasionally a whale appeared above water. The coast of Anticosti is bleak enough; and it was a pleasant contrast the next morning to find ourselves off the south bank of the St. Lawrence, covered with the white cottages of the fishermen on the shore and the somewhat larger dwellings of the squatters further back, who have cleared the timber from the lands they at present cultivate. All was excitement about two o'clock on Saturday afternoon as we approached Rimouski, where the mails were to be sent ashore, with some of the

passengers, in exchange for the news of what had transpired during the eight days we had been, as it were, out of the world. By this time we were enjoying the views on both banks of the noble river. I had more than once listened to a description of the beautiful autumnal shades of this country, but only then learnt how far short my ideas were of the reality. To avoid landing in the dark, the vessel was laid to during the night, and a dense fog rising in the morning, we did not arrive at Point Lévis till about nine o'clock. As we approached first one bank and then the other, as the channel ran, we had not much opportunity of seeing through the mist the points of interest on the islands and banks of the river. We only saw sufficient to cause us to wish to see more, and by and by we approached the city towering high above the river which flows tranquilly at the foot of the heights on which it is built.

An invitation awaited the delegates from the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province of Quebec to make his house their home during the time they were able to remain in the neighbourhood of Quebec; but as a special train was announced to leave at mid-day for the west, and as they were anxious to get on to Ottawa to visit the Dominion Agricultural Exhibition then being held there, they were reluctantly compelled to decline his hospitality.

The country we travelled through was poor and uninteresting, in an agricultural sense, so I need not recapitulate our travels until we reached Ottawa.

The Exhibition was opened by the Marquis of Lorne and the Princess Louise. Canadians yield to none in their loyalty to and love of our Queen, and their reception of the Vice-Regal party on the show ground must have been very gratifying to them.

Mr. Graham, of Belleville, Chairman of the Dairy Association of the County of Hastings, who was in charge of the dairy produce, kindly allowed me every facility to examine the exhibits under his charge. The butter and cheese were an excellent collection. I have visited many shows in England and Scotland, and have rarely seen such a numerous entry of fine butter. Taking into consideration the fact that Ottawa is some hundreds of miles away from the best agricultural districts of Canada, the display of stock was very creditable to the country; cattle and pigs were particularly worthy of note.

On our way to Toronto we spent a day at Brockville, where we gathered much useful information on Canadian phosphates and their treatment, from Mr. Cowan, and a very excellent system of cattle feeding from Mr. Stagg.

After spending two days in Toronto we embarked on the steamship "Ontario" at Sarnia, on a voyage over Lake Huron and Lake Superior to Duluth, on our way to Manitoba. We were accompanied by the Hon. Mackenzie Bowell, Minister of Customs, and Mr. Senator Aikins, and while these gentlemen, with the other delegates who made up the company, spent a couple of days inspecting the new railway which is being laid from Thunder Bay to Winnipeg, Mr. Biggar and I pushed on to Mapleton, in Dakota, to visit two of the great wheat-growing farms of the west. Duluth is one of those "would-be" cities with 2,000 to 3,000 inhabitants, with ten churches of various denominations, five of which are closed. It has also two grain elevators, which are kept very busy, this being the chief point of shipment of grain to the eastern markets. I may here explain that these elevators clean the grain, which is generally sent without dressing direct from the threshing machine, and store it or forward to market as required by the owner. All grain is classed on arrival, 1st, 2nd, or 3rd quality, and goes into a general stock of its class, the owner receiving a cheque for the amount of his deposit, which is negotiable. The surrounding land is of little value in an agricultural sense; the hills are rocky and the level land swampy.

On our way from Duluth we ran for several miles along the banks of the St. Louis River. The rapids, which continue for some miles, were beautifully illumined by the setting sun, and afterwards by moonlight. It was one of the finest sights I ever witnessed. We were rather scared by the creaking wooden bridges we passed over, some of which, we were told, had been condemned some years ago.

On our arrival at Mapleton, Mr. Dunlop drove us over a large tract of prairie, broken and unbroken. The system of working it was entirely new to us, and we were deeply interested in his account of the working of this land. I can only describe the sight presented to us as an immense expanse bounded by the horizon in every direction, and nothing to break the view but an occasional settler's house, stacks, or piles of straw, and here and there a narrow belt of timber, the indication of a river's course.

The next morning, accompanied by Mr. Disbrowe, Treasurer of the St. George's Society of Winnipeg, who met us the previous day, we drove over to Cheeney Farm, the property of Mr. Dalrymple. We were kindly entertained by Mr. Button, Manager of this farm, who, while showing us through the buildings, gave us every information respecting the working of the Dalrymple Farms, and, though foreign to my subject, I cannot leave them behind without giving you some of the particulars we learned, as the system adopted here may be worked to equal advantage on the prairie land of the Canadian North-West, but that country not being sufficiently developed, the information is not so readily obtainable there.

Mr. Dalrymple manages 70,000 to 100,000 acres of prairie land. He is at present working four farms on this property—viz., Cass Farm of 4,500 acres; Cheeney, 3,800; Alton, 2,200; and Grandin, 8,000 acres, and two farms of 3,000 acres, the property of other gentlemen, are also under his charge, making a total of 21,000 acres of land under crop this year. From 2,000 to 4,000 acres of new land are broken up yearly, and in 1880 he will sow 20,000 acres of wheat. Oats and barley are only grown for horse food. The Northern Pacific Railroad runs through the farms, and there is a private siding near the head office, situated at the north-east centre of the farms alluded to. There is a general manager over each farm, and sub-managers to accompany the men and horses in their various occupations. The ploughmen work long hours, and a stableman is kept whose work is to provide food for the horses, morning, noon and night. A blacksmith looks after the ironwork and implements on the farm, and has a store of duplicates of all the working portions of the machinery in use. The following remarks have special reference to Cheeney Farm, the others being worked on the same system:—

In breaking new land, three horses or mules are yoked in a single plough, which turns over 2 to 2½ acres per day, the soil turned over being 10 to 15 inches broad, and 2 inches thick. This work is done in June and July, back-set in the fall, and sown the following spring. Seeding commences about the beginning of April, or as soon as the land is in condition, and the frost out of it for two or three inches, and harvest begins about 1st of August. The ordinary seeding is 1½ to 2 bushels per acre. Barley is sown about the middle of May, and oats a week later. There are 25 self-binders on this farm, and 120 on the estate, a driver, two stokers, and three mules work each machine, which cuts 12 to 15 acres per day. Two or three days after the first of the crop is cut, the four steam threshers are set to work, each turning out 1,000 to 1,400 bushels per day, according to the crop. As the straw is all burned after threshing, they were working one of the threshers this harvest very successfully with straw for fuel instead of other kinds which are comparatively expensive in this district. The grain is sent to the elevators as it is threshed. It will be understood, therefore, that for a month or six weeks Cheeney Farm, with the 150 men employed on it during this period, is a scene of considerable bustle. Ordinary wages for spring and fall work are £3 10s. to £5 per month, but the extra harvest hands got 8s. to 12s. per day, with board in both cases. As soon as possible after harvest the ploughs are set to work on the stubbles and back-setting the new land for the spring crops, the whole of the wheat being sown in the spring. They use double sulky ploughs, with 16-inch shares, drawn by four horses or mules, travelling 18 to 20 miles, and turning over five acres each per day. The men ride on these ploughs. On this system an acre of wheat costs 30s. to 35s., or about 1s. 9d. per bushel of 60 lbs., on a basis of 19 bushels per acre, which is the average crop of this year on these farms. The price of wheat in Dakota was 3s. 1½d. per bushel at the beginning of harvest,

but afterwards rose to 4s. per bushel; the freight to Liverpool is about 2s. 2d. per bushel. Oats average 40 bushels, and barley 30 bushels per acre, on land that had been cropped four years successively without the application of any manure, the straw being burned as soon as threshed.

The country being level, the railways are laid at a nominal cost as compared with the cost of lines in this country, £2,000 per mile being a liberal estimate for laying, and another £1,000 for equipment.

We travelled northwards over an immense tract which had been devastated by fire a few days previously, and after 18 hours travelling reached the object of our journey.

We found Winnipeg to be a thriving city, situated at the confluence of the Assiniboine and Red Rivers, peopled by a most enterprising population of some 10,000 to 12,000. Ten years ago a few log huts and Fort Garry were the only buildings here. It improved gradually until 1872, when the inhabitants numbered about 500, and in 1874 it received another impetus, which has not ceased to the present day. The visitor is impressed with the idea that it means to be a city, and will succeed.

We drove westward along the bank of the Assiniboine to Portage la Prairie, where we met Mr. Ryan, M.P. for the District of Marquette, who told us that the average crops of this district would be 25 bushels wheat, 50 bushels oats, 40 bushels barley, 30 bushels peas, 5 to 6 tons potatoes, 15 to 18 tons turnips, and odd crops of double these figures where the land is in better hands than the ordinary run of farmers. We met several men whom we questioned on these points, and they were fully substantiated. The prices realized last year were 1s. 10d. to 2s. 3d. per bushel for wheat, 1s. 5d. for oats, and 1s. 8d. to 2s. for barley. This year the price of wheat had advanced to 3s. before we left. The cost of transport to England at present would be about 2s. 5d. per bushel; but the Government railway, which is at present being laid in an almost direct line to the lakes, will materially reduce this charge, so that grain will probably be transported from this province at a less cost than the present charges from the Western States of America, and so increase the value of the product in the hands of the grower.

The party divided at Portage la Prairie, some going further west, while the others, of whom I was one, returned to Winnipeg.

Leaving Winnipeg, we travelled south-west a distance of 80 miles, to the Pembina Mountain District, passing through the farm of Mr. Lowe, by whom we were most hospitably treated. The journey occupied five days. On this journey we crossed the Assiniboine and Stinking Rivers, going almost direct south to Morris, at the confluence of the Red and Scratching Rivers. The first eight or ten miles of the road was through a brushwood country. The open prairie was of a somewhat inferior quality to that which we had passed over going west, yet vastly superior to anything I had seen previous to my visit to this province. The Pembina Mountains form a gentle slope of well wooded land of great fertility, beyond which the country is more rolling, and very desirable land, although somewhat lighter than on the eastern slope. Returning to Winnipeg, we drove on one day ten miles north-west, and an equal distance across the Red River, through the Kildonan Settlement, to the north-east. This district was originally peopled by settlers whom Lord Selkirk brought out in 1814, sixty-five years ago. Some of the original settlers are still living, and I got some soil from a field belonging to Mr. McBeth, which had been cropped with wheat 54 years consecutively, except grasshopper years, and this year produced about twenty bushels per acre. It had never received any manure, but this autumn he is putting some dung on as an experiment. We drove over dung heaps the accumulation of over twenty years, and we heard of more than one instance where the dung heaps had become such a nuisance that the barns had been removed as the least expensive way of getting rid of the trouble. We met a Caldwellgate (Carlisle) weaver who had farmed very successfully for seven years, who was arranging, when we saw him, to have his dung heaps removed at the rate of 1s. per ton.

The soil throughout the country is a rich black loam, six inches to six feet deep, almost entirely free from stones, and varying in quality in different districts, on a subsoil of strong or friable clay or sand. I was much more favourably impressed with the appearance of this soil than that I had seen higher up the Red River Valley. It has more substance and will probably yield good crops long after the higher country has become exhausted. It is covered by a tufted grass, varying in length, according to the moisture of the soil, from twelve inches to five or six feet.

Stock raising has not been carried on to any extent in Manitoba as yet, although we saw some comparatively large herds of cattle in parts of the country we travelled over, and considered it well adapted for that purpose. Some shelter is required during the winter, but by a judicious selection of land the necessity for artificial shelter may be obviated to a considerable extent, as the winters westward to the Rocky Mountains become very much milder, and at the foot of them it is said to be so mild that snow almost melts as it falls, and will mostly disappear in twenty-four hours. According to the laws of the country stock may be grazed on or hay cut from any land that is not fenced, so that a man having a moderate holding may keep a stock by herding much in excess of what his actual holding may carry. Cattle are largely used for draught purposes, and as all new settlers use oxen for a time at least, as being best adapted to their requirements, there is an ever-increasing demand for draught cattle, many hundreds of which are being imported from the United States, and are commanding high prices, ranging from £20 to £35 per pair. Sheep also do well on partially enclosed ground, but in some sections they are killed by what is known as spear grass, which becoming entangled in the wool, penetrates the skin, and eventually causes death, but many of the diseases common in this country are unknown on the prairies.

The native stock of the North-West frequently show points of breeding which can only be accounted for by the importation some fifty years ago of thorough-bred stallions and fine Durham bulls; the country is indebted for these, as well as many other advantages, to the enterprise of the Hudson's Bay Company. Yearling cattle are worth 50s. to £3; two-year-olds, £4 to £5; steers, £6 to £8; and draught cattle, £9 to £18, according to strength, condition and breaking. The native cattle and horses will winter out without any attention. All kinds of grain (except Indian corn), roots and vegetables grow to great perfection. Apples have not been grown yet; I understand some difficulty was found in Minnesota when they were first cultivated, but cuttings were imported, and when they became acclimatised did well. The same success will doubtless attend the exertions of the people of Manitoba. Timothy grass and clover produce excellent crops, but rye grass grows too rapidly, and will not stand the severe frosts.

This Province of Manitoba and the North-West Territory are suitable to almost every class of emigrant who is prepared to endure the hardships of a new country and life on the prairie. These points should be carefully considered, and I will endeavour to enumerate them:—The country is new and the population being scattered, the pleasure and comforts of society must be foregone for a time at least, and we were sorry to note that this isolation had the effect in many instances of reducing people who had probably been brought up very differently, to utter indifference as to their personal appearance, and the comforts of life.

The climate is, owing to the extremes of temperature, a very trying one. The intense cold of winter when the thermometer registers 30 to 70 and even 80 degrees of frost for three or four months at least, and the heat of the summer months registering from 80 to 100 degrees in the shade, will deter many from trying their fortunes in this country. The atmosphere is lighter and more clear than we are accustomed to at home, and neither the cold of winter nor heat of summer are felt to the extent that they would be with the moist atmosphere which we are accustomed to.

Although the country is intersected by numerous large rivers and tributaries, it cannot be described as well watered, as the rivers are generally sluggish, and the water unfit for domestic purposes. A better quality can be obtained at a depth of

six feet deep, districts, on a probably impressed River Valley. After the higher rising in length, feet.

As yet, although every we travelled after is required for artificial westward to the it is said to be in twenty-four and on or hay cut holding may keep carry. Cattle are for a time at least, increasing demand from the United per pair. Sheep are killed by cholera, penetrates the in this country

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16 to 20 feet, and it is only occasionally needful to go deeper, but the water when obtained is often charged with the peculiar alkali taste which we find in Spa water.

Timber is greatly needed both for shelter, building and fuel, and the supply mainly comes from the higher lands, being floated down the rivers. The prairie fires are doubtless the principal cause of this scarcity, and as settlements extend, tree culture will be encouraged, and the fires checked to a great extent.

There are immense beds of coal in the Saskatchewan Valleys, as in those of the Red, Deer and other rivers, whilst north of the 59th parallel, there are said to be 500,000 square miles underlain with true coal. The future of this vast territory seems therefore to be secure, so far as fuel is concerned.

There are really no roads, and, with the exception of an immense gravel hill, ten miles north-east of Winnipeg, I did not notice any material suitable for road-making in the district I travelled through. The roads, or tracks, are merely trails over the prairie. If not fenced, so much the better, and a decent track may be picked out, but in settled portions, where the land is fenced, the roads are pretty bad. During the spring, on the break-up of the frost, and in June, the wet month of this country, they are almost impassable, and no carting is done that can be avoided. During summer and autumn the trails are good travelling except in swampy places, and become almost as hard as a macadamised road, while in winter they are covered with snow, and sleighs are invariably used for all kinds of work.

The mosquitoes and black flies are very troublesome to the new-comer for two months in summer; the old settlers care little for them, and they generally "clear out" as settlement progresses.

Distance from markets is a drawback, but that will be overcome to a great extent by the completion of the Government Railway, and as the railway is built with the object of opening up the country every advantage will be given to the settler which judgment and economy can secure.

No great expense is necessary in opening up the route by Hudson's Bay, but as it would be open for navigation only three to five months in the year, it could not be used advantageously, although it would bring Manitoba as near to Liverpool as New York is.

The grasshopper is another trouble which has, three times during the last 50 years, cleared the province of its crops.

Prairie fires are a source of great danger, and have caused incalculable loss to many settlers at various periods, but a little judicious and inexpensive precaution will obviate any serious effect.

Manitoba is but a mite in the great North-West, containing as it does only some 14 millions of the 375 millions of acres said to be fit for cultivation. Every settler above 18 years of age is entitled to 160 acres homestead or free grant and 160 acres pre-emption at a cost of one dollar to five dollars per acre, according to distance from projected railway, the first payment on account of which is due three years after settlement, and the payments extend over seven years. The land in the neighbourhood of Winnipeg is not being so rapidly taken up, for the reason that it is mostly held by speculators for higher prices than emigrants are generally able to pay for land, but as many of them have held for some years on borrowed capital which is worth 8 to 12 per cent., they are ready to sell at a small margin on cost, for the reason that it clears their hands, and increases the value of their remaining holding in the same district. The half-breed reserves have also been largely sold into the hands of these speculators, and, though it is a matter for regret that such large tracts of really good land should be held idle, it is done in the way of business by those who were bold enough to make this country their home when it was first opened to the public ten years ago.

In surveying the country, the boundary line has been taken as the base of operations from the east and west parallels, and the 96th meridian the base line for the north and south parallels. From those parallels the whole country is laid out in townships of six miles square, which are again sub-divided into sections of one square mile, or 640 acres; half-sections of 320, and quarter-sections of 160. Two sections

are reserved in each township for educational purposes, and two for the Hudson's Bay Company, the original owners of the soil; and they accept these, and a payment of £300,000 sterling in exchange for their charter, yielded to the Government in 1868. The school sections are disposed of as the country becomes settled up, and the proceeds devoted to the free education of the children of the townships. It is expected that the yield from this source will generally be sufficient to obviate the necessity for school rates.

The young man, or the man of middle age, with a family of sons pretty well up, are perhaps the class of emigrants best adapted to this country; but it would be a severe undertaking for a man with a young family to set out here, unless some provision had previously been made for them.

Zymotic diseases, and ague, which is so prevalent in many of the States not much south of this, are altogether unknown here, and as to the general good health of the people there can be no doubt.

Before leaving this district, I should like to give a word of warning to any who may be inclined to try their fortunes in this region, against the sharks who beset the unwary at every turn, as in all new countries, not only in the land interest, but touching every essential to the new settler; and I advise them to be chary of taking the advice of interested parties. In our travels west we met more than one who, on inquiry, we found had paid considerably more on the advice of these parties for their outfit than was at all necessary had they used their own discretion. Competition is keen enough even here to enable the settler to make a material reduction in his outlay, if he spends a little time about it. Set out as early in the spring as possible if you have not sufficient capital to allow you to spend the winter in Winnipeg. In the latter case you have time to look about you, and in the former case you have the summer before you to get at least a light oat crop, a few potatoes, and your place put in order for the winter. A few people going out together may take up holdings in the immediate neighbourhood of each other, form a small township or colony, and so mitigate some of the pangs which the emigrant naturally feels, and be of material assistance to each other in settling their new homes.

Much of the misery and disappointment so many emigrants have met with in the United States has been owing to their too readily accepting the advice of the agents of land and railway companies, whose sole interest is to have their extensive holdings settled at whatever cost. Beautiful pictures are deftly painted of the prospects of the settlers on their respective lands, each succeeding report being more brightly colored than its predecessor. If these men or the companies they represent kept faith with their clients (I had almost said victims), little if any fault could be found with them, and much human misery averted, but too often they are left to their own resources, strangers in a strange land, to live lives of trouble and regret.

I was glad to note that the information of their country, issued by the Canadian Government for the information of emigrants, is not written in the exaggerated tone which many of the neighbouring States adopt. The Dominion Government holds most of the lands of the North-West in their own hands. There is a vast tract to select from, and a most secure title ensured when the transfer is once made.

I gave an estimate of the cost of a wheat crop in Dakota. The same system may be adopted here to advantage, as the average yield, so far as can be learned on present information, will be 8 to 10 bushels per acre higher than the yield in Dakota, and every extra bushel produced tends to reduce the first cost per bushel to the producer. Oats and barley cannot be grown so profitably for export, but are being sold at remunerative rates to the new settlers.

Leaving Winnipeg, I proceeded to Chicago, thence to Indianapolis and Cincinnati, passing through the States of Illinois and Ohio, and along the Canada Southern Line to Toronto, where I arrived on Tuesday, October 28th. I spent a week in western Ontario, visiting Guelph, Galt, Brantford, Woodstock and Stratford. The country is well farmed, and a moderate amount of stock kept, which is on the whole better bred than that of any other section of Canada. It is much indebted for this characteristic to the enterprize of Mr. George Brown, who established the justly

celebrated Bow Park herd, now known as the Canada West Farming Association. The land is generally sandy loam, easily worked, and of a kindly nature. The country is undulating and beautifully wooded; and, had the snake fence been out of the way, and thorns substituted, I could have imagined myself in some districts I know of on this side the water. Our first visit was to Guelph, where we were met by Messrs. McCrae, who attended us throughout our visit, and were of great help to us in seeing the district, which is considered the best farmed and contains some of the best land in Ontario; although I am told that further west the land is of more substance.

The principal object of interest here is the Agricultural College and Model Farm, for the education in theory and practice of young men entering on a farmer's life. They have at present accommodation for 88 pupils, and have recently been compelled to refuse admission to many applicants. The students combine study and labor, for which latter they are remunerated to such an extent that a careful, industrious fellow can have his education free. All kinds of crops grown in the country are grown here, and experiments for their improvement conducted on a liberal scale; all varieties are carefully tested, and their characteristics noted for the benefit of the students and the country at large. I may here remark that rye grass has not, so far, been cultivated profitably in Canada; it does not appear to be suited to the extremes of temperature to which the country is subject. The land was all clean and in good order. The stock included pedigree specimens of shorthorns, Herefords, Devons, Polled Angus, Galloway and Ayrshire cattle; Southdown, Border Leicester, and Cotswold sheep, including a great many imported animals; and some Clydesdale horses. They are trying cattle feeding with animals of various breeds, testing the rate of improvement occasionally on the weighing machine. Professor Brown expects them to gain 2 lbs. per day. He has found that cattle do better on 30 to 50 lbs. of roots per day and a proportionately increased quantity of grain and dry food. They have found raw food to do equally as well as boiled or steamed food. The results of their experiments, as well as general report of the school and farm, form an interesting publication at the end of each year. I quite think the system worthy of adoption under Government patronage in this country, and that a Minister of Agriculture would be of material advantage to the farming community.

We visited several farms in the neighbourhood which are for sale at £12 to £14 per acre. An average rent of lands is 5 per cent on the capital value, and the taxes amount to about 5 per cent. on the rent, in addition to 8 days statute labour on the roads or equivalent. We found that agriculture has been in a very depressed state during the past five years throughout Canada; and that farms have barely paid interest on capital, if at all, and when the land was rented the results were anything but satisfactory. Previously, they had good seasons, and received paying prices for their produce. The following is an estimate prepared by Mr. Laidlaw and other practical men in the neighbourhood of the capital required to purchase and work a 200 acre farm on an average result of the past five years, everything being taken at hired prices. He remarks the fallow may appear unnecessary, but as turnips are an expensive crop, and not so much used as in this country, it is considered the most effectual way of cleaning the land. The produce, values, wages, system of cropping, quantity of stock kept, and general characteristics are worthy of careful perusal as giving a concise and full report of the system of working a farm in the Province of Ontario. The amount for taxes is not named; it would probably be £10 to £15, against which the produce of poultry will stand:

Estate of 200 acres, with brick house and necessary out-buildings of wood at £1+ per acre....	£2,800	0	0
6 horses at £20.....	120	0	0
6 cows at £10.....	60	0	0
6 calves at 36s.....	10	16	0
6 yearlings at £3 12 0.....	21	12	0

6 two-year-olds at £6	36 0 0
6 lean steers to feed at £6.....	36 0 0
20 breeding ewes at 24s.....	24 0 0
25 lambs at 12s.....	15 0 0
1 ram.....	3 0 0
Breeding sow and litter.....	5 0 0
Implements	160 0 0
Seed grain, and other seeds.....	20 0 0

£3,311 8 0

Labour.

Two men, one year, at £45.....	£90 0 0
One man, nine months.....	32 0 0
Extra help.....	10 0 0
Servant girl.....	20 0 0
Blacksmith and carpenter's account.....	8 0 0
Wear and tear of implements.....	8 0 0
Threshing machine, 4 days.....	5 12 0

£173 12 0

Yield.

25 acres wheat	20 bushels per acre
20 " oats.....	45 do do
15 " barley	30 do do
12 " peas.....	25 do do
9 " turnips.....	
1 " potatoes.....	125
35 " hay, at 1½ tons.	
5 " rape.	
45 " pasture.	
15 " fallow.	
15 " woodland	

200

Crop and Stock Sold.

500 bushels wheat at 4s.....	£100 0 0
450 " barley at 65c.	58 10 0
125 " potatoes at 50c	12 0 0

Oats, Peas, Turnips and Hay required in Feeding Stock.

6 two-year-old cattle, fat, at £14.....	84 0 0
6 bought-in cattle, profit at £8.	48 0 0
8 fat hogs at 60s	24 0 0
25 lambs at 24s.	30 0 0
21 fleeces, 5lbs. each, at 15d. per lb.....	6 6 0

£363 6 0

From which deduct outlay.....173 12 0

Net profit.....£189 14 0

or £5 4s. per cent. on invested capital, or £9 6s. 6d. per cent. on working capital, where the farm is rented, and as seven per cent. interest is obtainable on as good security as we are content to take at four per cent in this country, it would appear that farming on this system has not paid in Canada recently.

I have a strong conviction that high-class farming would pay better than the present system of management. If the land were stimulated by the judicious use of artificial manures, the raw material of which is so plentiful throughout the country, it would be gradually improved instead of being impoverished as under the present system, and stock-raising and feeding could be carried on more extensively and profitably in conjunction with the dairy, leaving the western provinces to grow the grain for export.

Leaving Ontario, we proceeded, *via* Boston, for a run through the Maritime Provinces. We arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, after passing through a rough country covered with a second growth of timber, and so rough as to be almost useless for agricultural purposes. In fact, we did not see 300 acres of cultivated land during a twelve hours' journey. Mr. Livingstone, Government Agent for this district, treated us very kindly, and substantiated much information we had gathered on our way up the country. We heard excellent reports of the Valley of the St. John River, which flows into the Bay of Fundy at this point. The scenery along the valley to the Big Falls is exceedingly beautiful and the soil of the most fertile nature. The country about Woodstock and Fredericton is equal to any in Canada, and is altogether clear of the fogs which almost constantly cover the country around the Bay of Fundy for many months of the year. We crossed the Bay to Annapolis, situated at the head of an inland lake and the mouth of the river of that name. It was one of the first French settlements of Acadia, as this country was called by the first settlers. The railway to Halifax runs for some distance along the river valley, the soil of which varies from heavy clay loam and even moss. Apples, which are said to be very fine flavoured, are largely grown; otherwise the district is only rudely cultivated. Passing over a wild rough country, we reached Halifax. The following morning we travelled as far as Amherst by rail, in company with Mr. Rodgers, Inspector of Fisheries for the Maritime Provinces. These fisheries form a very considerable item of revenue to these provinces, yielding 1,200,000 per annum. Some of the rivers are protected, and are literally swarming with fish. On one of them three rods killed 2,000 lbs. weight of salmon daily for several successive days. Mr. Rodgers very kindly promised to provide a few days' fishing for us should we visit these provinces again. Game is very plentiful throughout the wilds, and there is abundance of excellent sport for those who are so inclined, and as there are neither gun licenses nor game laws, and only the close seasons to consider, they may have full scope. This Province of Nova Scotia is rock-bound, and has a very bleak appearance from the ocean; and there is only a small portion of the interior calculated to disabuse the mind of the immigrant of these first impressions. Owing to its proximity to the Gulf Stream, however, the southern portion has much milder winters than any other part of Canada; and on the sheep farms, of which there are several, the sheep remain out all the winter. On our journey north from Halifax, we did not find any good land till reaching Truro, where we came on the salt marshes, which are large tracts of level land reclaimed from the sea by dykes which are run across the marsh. Gates are opened and the sea admitted for a few days of the spring tides, and the alluvial deposit left behind by the receding water is so rich that if properly seeded down a hay crop of two to three tons per acre is a certainty for years to come. We considered this land the richest we had seen this side of Manitoba, and is worth £16 to £25 per acre, while the adjoining high arable land is worth £6 to £10 cleared. The coarse hay is stored in ricks and sleighed home as required during winter, and the fine, or English hay as it is called, is housed in barns. From Amherst we drove over nine miles or so of these marshes, studded with thousands of hay-ricks, containing a ton to 25cwt. each, to Sackville, where we were met by Mr. Black, M.P., and several gentlemen of the neighbourhood, who accompanied us a mile or so to a spot where we hoped to see some of these dykes built, but night overtook us, and after visiting Mr. Wood's farm, where we found twenty strong bullocks tied up to feed, and a few well-bred yearlings and two-year-old cattle, we returned to Sackville. We learned that the Counties of Cumberland, Colchester, Pictou and Grand Pré, in Nova Scotia, and Westmoreland, in New Brunswick, are the best farming counties. A large

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quantity of hay has hitherto been exported, but with the English market open to them the farmers are turning their attention to cattle-breeding and feeding; and their proximity to the only Canadian winter port is an additional incentive to follow this system.

We were joined on our journey to Quebec by Sir Charles Tupper, who gave us a very interesting account of the rebellion at Fort Garry in 1870, and his journey thither during mid-winter over some hundreds of miles of snow, the success of his mission, and his safe return to his home.

Travelling along the Intercolonial Railway, we passed through a large tract of woodland, of which little has been cleared, till we reached Rimouski. The squatters here are French Canadians, and have their farms laid off in long narrow strips of 50 to 200 yards wide and 2 to 7 miles long. Much of the land is very stony, but there are some fertile sections, where the soil is a heavy loam or clay subsoil.

Passing Quebec, I pushed on to Montreal for a day, while my companions visited the Eastern Townships. Snow was falling heavily and the prospect was not cheering. They were, however, well pleased with what they saw of the country. Visiting Mr. Cochrane's farm, they were shown what are probably the most valuable stock in Canada; the produce of one cow of the herd having already realized £27,000, whilst he has a heifer valued at £5,000, and the cow remaining. In addition to his pedigree stock, Mr. Cochrane feeds a number of cattle every year, the country being peculiarly adapted for grazing and dairy purposes, and much resembles some of our mixed farms in various parts of Eden Valley. Land is comparatively cheap; good farms of 100 to 300 acres of cleared land, with fair buildings, can be bought at £5 to £6 per acre, and any one prepared to pay £10 per acre might almost pick the district. It is well worth the while of any one inclined to mixed farming in the eastern provinces to visit this section before going west to Ontario.

Returning to Quebec we enjoyed a sleigh drive to Montmorency Waterfalls; it was a beautiful clear day, six to eight inches of snow on the ground, the air was sharp and bracing, but the 20 to 30 degrees of frost did not cause the same feeling of cold incident to a similar temperature at home. I had heard so much of the pleasures of a Canadian winter that I wished for a taste of it, and I must say I enjoyed my short experience of it.

In conclusion, I would remark that Canada being a producing country, living is cheap, except as to imported luxuries, which, however, are no dearer than here. Education is at once the cheapest and the most perfect system in the world. Every child is entitled to a free education; and the fact that over 90 per cent. of the children attending school are at the public schools, is sufficient proof of the class of education afforded. The people are, to a large extent, our own countrymen, and all are under the same crown and form of government. Immigrants to Canada do not forswear their allegiance to their sovereign and country, as they must do before they acquire an acre of land or exercise a vote in the United States.

The Canadians are the most kind and hospitable people it has been my lot to meet with. I was struck with their kindness on the voyage out, and never in all my travels through the vast country from Halifax to Portage-la-Prairie, had I cause in a single instance to form an adverse opinion. I was rather amused at the way a fellow-passenger was rebuked by a Canadian whom he had called an American. I thought it then a distinction without a difference; but afterwards, in visiting the States, I learnt what grounds he had for making the distinction. That the Canadian people are industrious is beyond doubt; and the fact that so many thousand acres have been cleared amidst what was an almost impenetrable forest, is sufficient proof of the fact, and no one need go there who is not prepared to work. I enjoyed my visit to Canada very much, and was equally satisfied with its resources and the inducements held out to emigrants of various classes from this country.

It is a difficult task to give advice as to emigration in a general way. The circumstances of each individual would require to be known. I cannot advise anyone in comfortable circumstances at home, and fair prospects for his family, to give up such comforts for the uncertainties and hardships of a comparatively new country;

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although there is more room for a man of capital and enterprize to employ his capital and talents than in the Old Country, and the probabilities are that he would eventually hold a higher position in Canada than he could hope to do at home. On the other hand, to a man of middle age, possessed of moderate means, with a family brought up to farming and having for them no other prospect in view, or a young man setting out in life, the inducements for settlement are well worthy of consideration; there are also many industrious and thrifty men, who are making no head-way here, who would, with equal labour and care make themselves a home and competence across the water. I do not wish anyone to be guided by my advice until they have taken fully into consideration their position and prospects at home, perused carefully the various reports of the delegates; which, in combination, will form a most exhaustive report of the resources of the country, and then judge and act for themselves.

I append the following letter, which has been addressed to me:—

WINNIPEG, 21st October, 1879.

DEAR SIR,—I am sorry I could not have seen more of you here, for if you could have spared a few weeks we might have had a good trip to the West.

If you have been pleased with what you have seen so far, you would have been more so had you been west. As I told you, I was out a year and three months; and, counting my expenses from Toronto, the expedition did not cost me above \$400, and that amount I considered well spent, for I was a perfect invalid when I started, so I got health, and saw a fine country. I had my own ponies, and sold them on my return. Had I been one of the prominent at the banquet, I think I could have made a few interesting remarks on my trip, and I felt quite like it.

Some of your colleagues spoke of some points which I may answer here.

The roads will doubtless, in unfavorable weather, be bad until better trained, but when once past the Little Saskatchewan "bad roads" are not known; the country is rolling, and through wet weather is continually drained. This is the same all the way to the Rocky Mountains except in occasional parts. After the first two hundred miles from here, there is, in comparison, abundance of wood, and when near the mountains there certainly is. No man takes a rancho out there except on a creek and with plenty of wood. For years to come all can be suited, and then there will still be miles of fine prairie land a little to the south. There are abundance of fine large rivers and small streams of good fresh water, and all these streams abound with fine fish, such as speckled trout, mountain trout, salmon, whitefish, and smaller kinds. The winters, as you go west, are shorter. At the mountains, spring is fully one month earlier than here, and as I told you, snow does not lie at the mountain base; so that we have inside of our North-West Provinces six hundred miles of as fine a stock country as can be found in the world. Cattle are never fed in winter and never sheltered. This stretch of country is also well adapted to agriculture. I have seen fine tomatoes there, and it is a known fact that where they will thrive anything will. It certainly is a desirable country where a man can raise stock without the expense of feeding, and with a market at hand, as well as produce.

There is an abundance of coal all over the country in the west. I know of the different parts myself; a seam of 17 feet on the North Saskatchewan, and others on the Red, Deer, and Bow Rivers. At the present time, boats can be run from Winnipeg to within a short distance of the mountains, with simply a portage of 15 miles. There are to-day boats on the Saskatchewan, 950 miles direct west from here; so, with the new railroad, we shall be well off. I do not make these remarks on this far west country to depreciate the value of this nearer part, but to show how much room we have left when this is filled up, and what inducements there are for different classes. Wishing you a safe trip home, and success to the enterprize, I remain, &c., &c.,

WALTER S. BURN.